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TRIAL

OF THE

REV. REVILO F. PARSHALL,

LATE PASTOR OF THE

Baptist Church at Sandy Hill, N. Y.,

ON CHARGES OF

LICENTIOUSNESS, IMPRUDENCE, AND BAD EXAMPLE;

BEFORE AN

Ecclesiastical Council,

HELD ON THE

17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th days of January, 1860.

New-York:

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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1860, by

THOS. J. STRONG, AND ROMEO B. PERRY,

In the Office of the Clerk of the United States District Court, for the Northern District of New-York.

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Licentiousness, Imprudence, and Bad Example.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

In order clearly to understand the circumstances which led to the intensely interesting trial, a complete and faithful record of which follows, it will be well enough to present a summary of the events which preceded it.

Elder Parshall had, for about three years, been a very popular and remarkably successful preacher in the Baptist Churches at Fort Edward and Sandy Hill. A man of pleasing address, rather good looking, and possessing a superabundance of assurance, he had devoted himself actively and energetically to the ministerial office; and in a brief time built up, from weak and flagging churches, a vigorous and powerful congregation at each of the above-named villages. The one at Sandy Hill, especially, had become exceedingly numerous under his labors, and attained to a respectability in numbers and influence far beyond anything of the kind at any previous period of its history. Although he has evidently not enjoyed the advantages which are supposed to be conferred by a classical education or a University course, yet his wonderful command of language, his entirely original expressions, his novel figures of speech, and his sometimes rough and uncouth, but always very striking comparisons and illustrations, rendered him an attractive and powerful preacher of the Gospel. To confirm this statement it is only necessary to remark, that, during his ministrations at Fort Edward and Sandy Hill, he had, according to his own assertion, "led up out of the crystal waters of the Hudson three hundred and sixteen hopeful and rejoicing converts to the Gospel of the Great Redeemer."

During this day of prosperity of the church at Sandy Hill, in the fall of 1858, some rumors of acts of moral indiscretion on the part

of Elder Parshall, were in the mouths of gossips and others. The officers of the church promptly made inquiry into the matters, and soon dismissed them as idle tales, devoid of any truth. The Elder, who had, by letter, only joined the church at Sandy Hill in the winter of 1858–'59—though he had officiated there as pastor for more than two years previously—tendered his resignation in March, 1859, and was granted a letter. He soon after moved from the place and took up his residence at Janesville, Wisconsin. He had not been long absent before a flood of rumors were in general circulation, charging him with numerous and the grossest acts of moral obliquity. During the following summer the church of Sandy Hill felt compelled to take action on these accumulating and aggravated rumors; and, in accordance with that sense of duty, it preferred charges against him.

He was duly and officially notified of the fact, and a council called for the 27th of July, to try him upon these charges. The council was composed of ministers and laymen from neighboring churches.

Parshall was not present at the appointed day, but wrote from the West, where he then was, asking for an adjournment to the 16th of August, which was granted. On the 16th of August the council again convened.

The accused was not present, but he himself declares that he forwarded to the clerk of the church a written defence. No such document, however, was read on that trial, the clerk and officers of the church asserting that no written defence was received by them.

A member of the council was appointed to defend him as well as might be, and the trial proceeded. The council unanimously found him guilty of licentious conduct and falsehood—deposed him as a minister, and advised the church to "withdraw the hand of fellowship from him," which was accordingly done.

In December following, Parshall returned to Sandy Hill and asked the church to grant him a new trial, and they did so. The old council was re-called with some few additions, for the 3d of January, inst. On that day the council convened. Rev. Mr. Brown, of Hartford, chairman of the former council, was elected chairman, and James Cheesman of Fort Edward, secretary. The proceeding of the church in calling the council was read, and the names of the council called by the Secretary. The decision of the former council was then read. An animated and lengthy discussion followed, as to whether the council would admit any testimony, except what was educed upon the former trial. Parshall also objected to proceeding to trial without specifications being furnished him. The clerk of the church stated that he had offered Parshall specifications some time before and he had refused them.

The following resolution was finally adopted:

Resolved, That this council adjourn for one fortnight, with this understanding, that this church shall furnish, promptly, the specifications, after which the council will convene again to proceed with the investigation.

The council convened on the 17th of January, at one o'clock P. M. Rev. Mr. Brown, of Hartford in the chair.

The session was opened by prayer, by Rev. Mr. Gale, of Troy.

The minutes of the last meeting of the council were read, and the names of the members called.

The minutes having been approved, the moderator read a communication from Elder Baldwin, of Troy, stating that his engagements were such that he could not meet with the council.

Elder Brown said he thought it to be his duty to resign as moderator of the council. He had been rudely assailed for the course pursued by him at the previous session, and he could put no other construction upon the manner in which he had been treated than that the church looked upon him with an eye of extreme jealousy. The church should have a chairman in whom they can place the fullest confidence.

Rev. Marvin Eastwood, who appeared as prosecuting counsel on behalf of the church, said he thought Elder Brown would not say *he* had assailed him. Mr. Eastwood said he was perfectly willing the moderator should be a friend of Elder Parshall. There were some who did think Elder Brown had stepped a little out of his office as moderator, when he went so far as to draw resolutions and argue them.

Several members of the council urged Brown to retain his seat as chairman. He insisted upon his resignation, which was finally accepted, and Rev. Mr. Mason, of Union Village, appointed in his stead.

Brown made remarks explanatory and in vindication of the course he had pursued.

Eastwood opened for the prosecution. He said:

"I have been employed by this church to conduct their trial with R. F. Parshall. I have not volunteered. I am not an ecclesiastical counsel. I was employed in a similar affair once before, when I could not help it. When the deacons of this church came to me, I declined, and wrote them declining, but finally consented, because I could not say *no*. I am not eloquent, and have no reputation for eloquence. It speaks well for the cause of this church, that they are willing to commit it to such weak hands. While I shall 'set down naught in malice,' I shall 'nothing extenuate,' but shall march straight through as well as I can."

He here stated the facts in connection with the trial in August, as before given, and continued:

"I was applied to to act as counsel in defence of Parshall. I was then prejudiced in his favor. I listened to the evidence, and became convinced, and have since become *more* convinced, that he is guilty.

"A great effort has been made to prejudice the minds of this Council. I wish them to approach this trial like an even pair of scales, hung on an oiled pivot, and without a dust in either balance, and listen with

as much patience as your indignation will permit, and make up your verdict with as much mercy as possible."

Eastwood then offered to read in evidence the affidavit of Nancy Jane Osborn, a person whom outsiders understood to be of bad character.

Elder Gale :—I want to know upon what principle this man is to be tried—whether it is to be on the gospel principle, or some other? I appear here as his counsel, and I want to know if Elder Parshall is to be tried and convicted on the affidavits of prostitutes, and such like?

Parshall :—I hope the church may be allowed to present just such evidence as they see fit, and as strong as they see fit. I never saw Elder Gale until an hour or two ago. He has kindly offered to lend me his aid in my defence, but I intend to mainly manage the matter myself.

Eastwood :—This Mrs. Osborn was present before the council on the 3d inst., but there was so much talk made by the defendant that it was impossible to get her on the stand before the time she must leave.

Her affidavit was then read, and was as follows:

AFFIDAVIT OF NANCY JANE OSBORN.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, SS :

I, Nancy J. Osborn, being duly sworn, do depose and testify, that I am twenty-one years old, am the wife of D. C. Osborn, and reside with him at No. 27 North Fourth street, in the city of Troy; that my maiden name was Bennett, and I was born and brought up in the town of Fort Edward, in the county of Washington, and always lived in that town until I came to live in Saratoga Springs, about three years ago last spring; that I was intimately acquainted with the Rev. R. F. Parshall while he preached in the village of Fort Edward, and very frequently attended the meetings at the Baptist church in the village of Fort Edward five or six years ago; that in the progress of said protracted meetings I was immersed by said Parshall, and received by him into his church as a member thereof, and so continued until (as I am informed) I was excluded for having stated that said Parshall had attempted to take improper liberties with my person; that in the course of these meetings, and while I was a member of his church, and within three or four weeks after I joined, Elder Parshall, on several occasions, improperly put his hand in my bosom, and on different parts of my person; that at one time while I was going from the lecture room in the basement of the Baptist church in the village up into the body of the church, I met Mr. Parshall on the stairs, when he attempted to put his hand in my bosom. This was in the evening; that soon afterward, when going home from church after service, I met him on the side-walk near his house, when he attempted to repeat the same act. On another occasion he invited me to go home with him after evening service and stay all night. I went, and after being there a short time, he told me he wanted to talk with me alone on religious subjects, and invited me to go up stairs. I did so, and he took me into a bed-room with two beds in it, in which two of his small children were asleep. He took a seat beside me on a trunk in

one corner of the room, and began to talk with me on the subject of religion, and at the same time put his left arm around my waist, and his right hand on my bosom, and also attempted to put his hand under my clothes, and took other liberties with me against my will. I now solemnly declare, that, up to the time Mr. Parshall made said advances to me, I had lived a virtuous life, and honestly endeavored to faithfully perform my duties as a Christian.

I further state that, after I had the church difficulty with Mr. Parshall, and the same season after I joined the church, I went to work at the Marvin House in Saratoga Springs, as a dining-room servant, and subsequently, and during the months of July and August in the same year, I resided with Mrs. Losee, at Saratoga Springs, and while living there Mr. Parshall spoke to me while in a store in Broadway, and asked me where I was stopping. I told him at Mrs. Losee's. He seemed very glad to see me, and said he would call on me before he went home. He had a young boy with him at the time, whom he afterward told me he had sent home. Within half an hour after I returned to Mrs. Losee's. I saw him coming toward the house, and just before he got there I saw him speak to James Cole, who appeared to show him the way to the house. Mr. Parshall came to the door and rang the bell, and Mrs. Losee let him in, and showed him into the room where I was, and soon after left Mr. Parshall and myself alone and we remained alone more than an hour and a half; that while there he put his arms around me and put his hand on my bosom and kissed me repeatedly, and offered me two or three dollars if I would go to bed with him. I further state that while he was with me at Mrs. Losee's he told me he had to lie about me in our church difficulties at Fort Edward to save himself, and asked me not to expose him.

I further testify that Mr. Parshall, before he left me at Mrs. Losee's, made an arrangement with me to meet him at some subsequent time at Gansevoort's Station. He asked me to write him when I would be there, and he said he would be sure to meet me, but I never went.

Mr James Cole, then living near the depot, saw Elder Parshall when he left Mrs. Losee's at the time I have stated.

N. J. Osborn.

Sworn to before me this 2d day of January, 1860.

Edwin Crane, *Justice of the Peace.*

Parshall :—I want to know who took this affidavit? I have a right to know my pursuers.

Moderator :—I do not consider the church bound to answer this question.

Eastwood then read the affidavit of Henry C. Staples, which is as follows:

AFFIDAVIT OF HENRY C. STAPLES.

Warren County, ss.

Henry C. Staples, being duly sworn, says, that he resides at Glenn's Falls in said county; that in August, 1856, he resided in Saratoga; that he knew Nancy Jane Bennett; that she lived at Mrs. Losee's at Saratoga Springs; that Nancy Jane Bennett, in the month of August aforesaid, stated, while at Saratoga, in the presence of deponent and several other persons, that Elder Parshall, of Fort Edward, had visited her at Mrs. Losee's; that

the Elder told her he knew it was wrong, but his passions were so strong that he could not help it; that he would not have her tell of it for the world; that the said Bennett at the same time stated, that she had been a Sabbath-school scholar under said Parshall. That the reputation of the house of Mrs. Losee was notoriously that of a house of prostitution. Deponent further states that he was never in the house of said Mrs. Losee.

H. C. STAPLES.

Sworn to before me, this 6th day of January 1860.

HENRY C. HAY, Notary Public.

R. B. Perry called:—I went to Saratoga a few days since, and saw Mrs. Losee. She stated to me that some three years since Nancy Jane Bennett lived with her. While she was living there a gentleman called to see her one day, and was alone with her a long time. after he left, Jane told her it was Elder Parshall, from Fort Edward. She passed by the name of Jane Clark while with Mrs. Losee. The boys in the street used to call her "Fort Edward," as Mrs. Losee said.

Parshall:—Mr. Perry, from your own experience in such things, how is it? Do gentlemen usually visit such places under their true names, or under disguised ones?

Witness:—I don't know, sir; I can't tell; I am not much in the habit of visiting such places; I don't know anything about that.

Member of Council:—I think the church should bring something better than the evidence of harlots to sustain their case.

Eastwood:—We cannot prove these deeds without following him to the brothel; such things cannot be shown by the testimony of innocent dewy virgins.

Eastwood then read a copy of a resolution from the Fort Edward church book, as to when N. J. Osborn joined the Church, and when she was excluded for falsehood.

Parshall:—This is not a correct copy of the record.

M. Grace, church clerk, called:—The paper read is substantially correct as a copy of the original record.

Parshall:—Is the church book here? I think it can be easily obtained; I understand that Lawyer Northup got the book some time since, and it is probably here.

H. B. Northup:—If the gentleman refers to me, it is an unmitigated falsehood.

Parshall:—I understood so; I don't know it of my own knowledge.

Zina Tucker called:—I belong to Fort Edward Baptist Church; was present at the trial and exclusion of Miss Bennett; I think there was a proposition to appoint a committee to examine the charges; Parshall said it was no use, as he had the evidence that she had lied, and she must leave or *he* would.

Cross-examined:—I don't know as I then regarded what was then done as proper.

Eastwood read the affidavit of Polly Pike.

STATEMENT OF POLLY PIKE.

Last August, Elder Parshall came to my father's house and invited me to ride with him to Fort Miller to meeting; I went with him to Mr. Bristol's, and he left his horse there, and we rode with Mr. Bristol's folks; after meeting it rained, and we came back to Mr. Bristol's; they asked us to stay all night, but he made excuse that he had brought me down and must carry me home again—but said he would not do so if I was willing to stay; but he said we had better go, and we went, and when we got to father's I asked him if he would stop and stay all night, but he said no, and asked me to go home with him; but I made objection to it, and he then said, if I would ride up to the bridge and it did not stop raining, he would come back and stay, and then drove along without giving me time to get out. On the way to the bridge, he put his arm around me and kissed me twice. I felt so indignant at his conduct that I attempted to jump out of the carriage, and I think he then got out and assisted me out; but I am not certain on this last point; but I left him immediately and went home.

Some two or three weeks after that Elder Parshall came to our house, and my sister, Mrs. Freeman, was there, and I was intending to go to Sandy Hill to attend the "Pic Nic," which was the next day. I expected to ride with Mrs. Freeman, but she could not carry me conveniently, and Elder Parshall asked me to ride with him, but I did not like to and hesitated, and asked Mrs. Freeman if I had better, and she said yes, of course, and as it was in the day time, and there were other ladies in the company, I consented to do so. On the way up he asked me several times to go home with him, but I refused, and he said, "You are afraid to go." I told him no I was not afraid, but I did not want to. He said Libbie, his wife's sister, was anxious to have me come that she might get more acquainted with me, and that Mrs. Parshall was gone, and Libbie would be alone. I asked Mrs. Freeman's advice again, and she said I had better stop and stay with Libbie. I did so, and in the evening after the children were in bed, we were in the chamber. He said, "We will go down to the sitting room and attend prayers;" we did so, and after prayer I retired to bed with one of the children in the bedroom below, and Libbie went up stairs to sleep. After I had been in bed awhile Elder Parshall came into my room with a light; he set it down and came to my bed and stooped down and kissed me, and put his hand in my bosom. I immediately pushed him away and told him to leave my room, or I would expose him; that he was mistaken if he supposed I was such a girl as that; he then left the room. In an hour or two he came into my room again with a light and undertook to insult me as before, but I repulsed him, and declared I would certainly expose him if he did not leave me and keep out of my room; he then left the room as before. In the course of the night I was awoke by some one trying to get into my bed; I spoke and said, Elder Parshall! he said, "what," so that I knew his voice; there was no light in the room; I think he was undressed, for I felt his naked foot against my person; he had got nearly into bed; I sprang up in alarm, and told him to leave the room, or I would make an outcry. He then left and I was not troubled with his presence again. I should have made an alarm then, but I was so ashamed for him, and was so reluctant to let Libbie know he was such a man, and I thought, too, that if I told of it, it would disgrace me as well as him, and so kept still for a while; I felt so bad that I could not hear him preach again, and I have not since. But I finally thought I ought to let Mrs. Freeman know why I would not hear him preach, and I told her

these circumstances as my reasons. The next day was the "Pic Nic," and after that I came up to Mr. Freeman's, and my brother carried me home. On the way home I stopped at Elder Parshall's to get some things I left there. He was at tea; I went up stairs to get my things, and he followed me up and asked me if I told of what happened last night. I told him no. He asked me if I was going to tell of it. I told him I guessed not. He then said, "Don't, by any means," or something like that, as it would ruin him; and he said he felt very bad about it, and that it would injure me as well as him.

POLLY PIKE.

P. S.—I wish further to state, that the reason that mainly induced me to go to Mr. Parshall's the second time, to which I have before referred, was, that Libbie stated that she had some ironing to do for Mr. Parshall, who was to go the next evening after the Pic Nic to Schoharie after his wife, who was there on a visit. Libbie told me she could not do the ironing and go to the Pic Nic without some help, and that she was anxious to go. I told this to my sister, Mrs. Freeman, and told her I did not want to go. She told me I had better go. My sister knew of his insulting me at the bridge. I had before told her, and went to her for advice. Mr. Parshall had, before this, expressed his sorrow and regret for his insult at the bridge, saying he had no bad intentions, and asked my forgiveness. I believed at that time, his regret, and what he said, was true. It has been reported that I kissed Mr. Parshall first. I hereby testify that I never kissed him at any time.

POLLY PIKE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, July 9th, 1859.

U. G. PARIS, Justice of the Peace.

Eastwood: I now offer in evidence a letter from J. Sella Martin, a colored man, who preached here some, last winter:

LETTER OF J. SELLA MARTIN.

170 CAMBRIDGE STREET, BOSTON,
January 9th, 1860.

DEAR BROTHER.—I am in receipt of all three of your communications, asking information in regard to Rev. R. F. Parshall's admissions to me, respecting the charges for which your church is about to try him.

I consider a compliance with your request, in regard to the affidavit, as unnecessary, since I know no more of the matter than what Brother Parshall admitted to Brother Cronkhite. And as he has already put you in possession of Brother Parshall's admission, I can do no more in this communication than confirm Brother Cronkhite's statement, which is this, viz.:

Brother Parshall told me that he had heard reports unfavorable to the virtue of Miss Polly Pike, and being anxious to test their accuracy, he, on a certain occasion, while riding with her, felt of her breasts, the which she resented with becoming modesty and indignation. This is all he admitted to me, denying the other reports that were in circulation about his unministerial conduct.

Yours respectfully,
J. SELLA MARTIN.

HENRY TEFFT, Esq., Sandy Hill, New-York.

Henry Tefft, called: I wrote to Martin three times for his statement and affidavit, and then received this letter.

Mr. Cronkhite, called: At the close of an evening meeting, last winter, Brother Martin called me aside, and said he had heard that Elder Parshall had taken improper liberties with Miss Pike, who was staying at Mrs. Freeman's, where he (Martin), was stopping; he further said he understood I knew of the fact, and asked me if it was true. I told him it was true.

The first I heard about this matter, was from R. P. Freeman. He came into my store in January last, and stated that Parshall had insulted his wife's sister, Polly Pike. I told him I did not believe it; and he referred me to his wife, in whom I have perfect confidence. I went to my house and told my wife. I sent for Mrs. Freeman, and upon an interview with her learned that a serious insult occurred at the house. After hearing that, Parshall came in my store; I called him to my desk and commenced conversing with him; I spoke of his sermon bearing upon Mr. Freeman, and he said he did not so intend it; I then told him that I had learned that he had insulted Polly Pike. He hung his head a moment and then said: "It is too true—I have no excuse to offer—the devil got the start of me." I believe those were his words. He excused himself at the time by an excuse made by a college chum of his, who had heard a girl was of doubtful character and felt justified in finding out if the reports were true. He said he had heard that she was of doubtful character and he felt justified in testing her, and that the reports were not true. He said what Polly Pike had said and had told Mrs. Freeman was true; that she was a pure and truthful girl. He said he had told Katie Pike of what he had done and why he had done it, and said he should stand up for Polly if any one defamed her.

I remarked to Parshall that it was a horrid case and that I ought to tell the deacons of the church. He replied he could not blame the church if they made a public thing of it, but wished me to say nothing about it, until I saw him again; I told him I could make no promises, I should be governed by what appeared to be duty after thinking and praying over it. I afterward decided not to tell, and so told him, until after the close of our protracted meeting. After this, in Parshall's prayers and sermons and conversations with me, I saw great evidence of penitence.

After this, I asked him in my store if this was the ONLY instance of impropriety with females; he said it was, "Upon my honor as a Christian, it is!" I told him I would not tell of it, as it would injure him and the girl. He said a physician in Fort Edward had told him if he did not stop preaching, he would smell the turf in six months; said he would leave here the 1st of March—after that, said the 1st April; that it would excite suspicion if he went off so soon; that a brother had offered to take his money and pay him 20 per cent., and he hoped upon that to get along without preaching.

I had insisted that Mrs. Parshall should know the fact, and told

my wife and Mrs. Freeman they must tell her. Parshall came into my store one day and said he had heard I had so told them; he said "Brother C., you don't know my wife as well as I do; it would break up my family;" said he could not consent to have the deacons know it; he had all he could stand up under now.

Cross-examined—I wrote Parshall a letter before the trial; I believed at that time that letter was true; I believe there were some statements concerning which I was not reliably informed, and I have changed my mind. In regard to Polly Pike, Parshall said what I have stated was true. I stated to P., that I had heard from a source which I considered reliable, that he had insulted Polly; he hung his head and said: "It is too true; I have no excuse to offer; the devil got the start of me." I am a merchant; am treasurer of this church; I have writtten the substance of the interview to Parshall.

Question by Gale: Did you at that time consider the conduct between them criminal? (Great laughter.) *Witness.*—What do you mean by criminal? *Gale.*—You know as well as I do. *Witness.*—I did not get the idea that Parshall had sexual intercourse with Polly. At the time of the conversation, Parshall did not state any particulars. I told him I had heard that he had insulted Polly at the bridge, and grossly insulted her at the house. I did not state to John Tefft that Mr. Cheesman told me that his wife believed defendant was as intimate with his wife's sister as he was with his own wife, for the reason, that his wife's sister's face had the appearance of a married woman. I did not say to Brother Larway that Parshall had better be advised not to come back—that Ralph would lay his hands on him, and all that Ralph wanted was to have him silenced. I did tell Brother Burton that I had stuck up for Elder Parshall always, heretofore, but that my opinion of him had changed, and that I would now do as much to have him exposed, &c.

The defendant interrogated the witness at great length, in regard to what he had said to different persons.

Elder Pratt, of council, suggested that these questions were irrelevant, and ought to be discontinued.

Cross-examination, continued: I did not state a few days since to Elder Parshall's brother that from facts I had recently got I was convinced that there was a plot to get his money, and that my opinions had undergone some changes in reference to these charges. I told Parshall I was opposed to introducing the Sloansville matters. I was not asked to pay anything toward getting them.

Adjourned until evening.

The council met at half past six o'clock, P. M. It was moved that ministers of other churches present be invited to sit with the Council. Carried.

Counsel for prosecution offered in evidence a letter from Parshall to Hughes and Northup.

Lyman H. Northup called: I received the letter shown me not far from the 1st of August last; I think it was received through the Post Office; am acquainted with Parshall's writing, and have no doubt the letter shown me is his.

The letter was then read in evidence, and is as follows:

JANESVILLE, *Monday.*

MESSRS. HUGHES & NORTHUP: Your note of the 22d is just received, and allow me to say that when your former letters came, I did not know what to do or say. I had heard nothing from S. H., and hardly knew in what light to view it. I hope you will not, at least, for the sake of my family, take any legal measure to effect my return. I give you my word I will come by your request, but would much prefer to see Mr. Freeman here; or will you not settle the unhappy matter with my wife, as she went east a few days since.

Yours,

R. F. PARSHALL.

The prosecution next offered a letter from Parshall to Henry Tefft.

Henry Tefft called: I received this letter from Janesville; I know Parshall's writing—this letter is his.

The letter was then read, as follows:

LETTER FROM PARSHALL TO HENRY TEFFT.

JANESVILLE, *July* 7, 1859.

MY DEAR BROTHER TEFFT: Your letter has just reached me, and I have replied to the citation. When I read it, it did seem as if my poor soul would break. O God! has it come to this? But your kind words to me were more precious than gold. God will reward you for those words which soothed my boiling soul. I said, "Does Brother Tefft love me yet?" It seems to me that I had better come there; yet I will leave it to you. Why, Brother Tefft, I have not been guilty of licentiousness; I have not had intercourse with a single one, and I know no one will say so. I cannot believe that God will suffer me to be excluded. I have prayed, fasted and prayed, and I feel God does love me, and has forgiven all my *wanderings.* Oh! Brother, do for me *what you can.* Save me and the cause. My heart is too full—I cannot write more.

You speak of Ralph suing me. I don't care for that. I can meet that better than the thought of being *excluded.* I expected that, hence I have got rid of all my *property.* I had rather give it away than let him have it. I have taken Polly Pike's statement as given to Mrs. P. and your wife to the best lawyer in town, and he says they can't take me from this State—also the fact that she came and stayed at my house that night after the ride, kills the whole thing. He says if he defends it and don't *beat,* only his expenses east shall be charged. I read him her statement as Mrs. P. gave it to me.

Now, if he sues me, he can only take me for a criminal action, hence, if he gets a verdict it will go to the State and not to him.

Now, Brother Tefft, may I commit this to you? If that matter can be settled up with friend Pike, I will pay *five hundred dollars,* if it can be done so as not to be known and they stop forever their course of pursuing me,

and the church can forgive and save me; and it does seem to me they would, were it not for Freeman. I am willing to pay this amount for my folly, but Polly Pike knows how much she was to blame in the commencement of that matter. Will you see Freeman before the committee meet?

Yours.

This letter had no signature, but it was shown to Elder Parshall and he admitted it to be his writing.

The prosecution then offered a letter from Parshall to Cronkhite.

Cronkhite called: I cannot tell definitely when this letter was received. I received it postmarked Janesville—know Parshall's writing—believe this letter to be his and that it came from him.

The letter was then read, as follows:

LETTER FROM PARSHALL TO CRONKHITE.

JANESVILLE, Monday.

BROTHER CRONKHITE—Your letter was received this day, and with a sad and aching heart I am attempting to reply. Brother Tefft wrote me a few days since, and I at once returned him my letter, with a statement of feelings as well as I could under that excited moment.

There is no use, I see from your note, to say one word on any matter. You know, and have heard before, of my confessions and sorrow for some of those unhappy transactions. While I never intended to be wrong and licentious, I see in the light of the past a very wrong and wicked course, which I confess to the church, and have long prayed for forgiveness; and I feel if I have ever repented for anything in my life, it has been some of those things to which you refer; and I do feel that God has forgiven me. Oh, this dark hour! The brethren must do what they think truth demands. I give myself up to them. It grieves me to think I have wounded the cause and the church by a thoughtless, reckless course. I hope you will not forget to pray for me, whatever else you may do.

Yours, in deep sorrow,

R. F. PARSHALL.

The following letter was then read in evidence:

LETTER FROM PARSHALL TO HENRY TEFFT.

JANESVILLE, July 30th.

MY DEAR BROTHER TEFFT: Yours of the 18th arrived this afternoon, and I hasten to reply; and it is with feelings I cannot describe that I pen these lines to you: 1st, because I have been so foolish and wrong; 2d, because I have given those who are my friends trouble; and 3d, because it will injure others and the cause of Christ. In reference to your intimations about Miss Niles and Bennett, I deny, except I see I was not as prudent as I ought to have been. In regard to Polly Pike, I acknowledge to you with shame, as I have to her and others, that I was mean and wrong; though I never should have done what I did had it not been for the unhappy suggestions of another, which by no means furnished any *excuse* for my conduct. I do not feel that my motive was *criminal*—in fact I was very foolish without a *motive*. When I saw it as I have ever since

looked at it, I went to her and confessed all, and prayed her forgiveness; and if there was ever anything that has caused me deep heart sorrow and repentance before God, it is those acts. Oh! if tears could have washed them out, they would have been removed long before this. I have prayed, wept and prayed, over that unfortunate thing, and I feel that God has forgiven me for Christ's sake.

As to Lydia Pike, I cannot believe you have your information from her. I will leave myself upon her own statements. I think she rode with me from Dunham's Basin; but if I took liberties with her, God knows I was deranged or a fool. I did not design to. In reviewing my course, however, I feel that it was not as circumspect as it ought to be, and it has given me pain by day and night; and I have resolved to, and feel that I have, lived a different life in these respects. My mind was made up before I left S. H. to be more careful upon those points, where I saw I had failed so much; and would have confessed all if I had thought it would have made anything better. I return my letter at your request, and gladly would give my life in its stead, if that could remove all. I know that I have committed no actual act of licentiousness, yet I have been very imprudent. I will not say one word in justification of what I have done wrong; but as for confessing what I have not done, that I cannot do. I now throw myself upon the church, which I have not in coolness meant to *abuse;* and hope and pray that they will forgive me, as we all hope to be forgiven. From my heart I am sorry, and have been deeply for *long months* past; and now feel more keenly, as the cause must be reproached, and those brought into public notice who have not deserved it.

I hope my brethren will not feel compelled to take from me that which is as dear to me as life—a place in the church—but if they feel that the interests of the church, and the cause of truth *demand it*, I shall pray God that my name may not be blotted out of the Lamb's book of life.

Yours.

Philip Pike was here called as a witness. I am the father of Polly Pike; Mrs. Parshall came to my house in June or July last, and said Mr. Parshall had insulted Polly, and sent her there to settle it with me, and wanted to know how much I thought I had been injured. I told her dollars and cents would not pay it—that I did not want money. She said she would pay whatever amount I said; that she believed Parshall had repented, and that God had forgiven him, and that the elder had told her to settle it, let it cost what it would. She farther stated that the elder admitted he had insulted Polly. She said she had seen the Scoville girl, but that affair did not amount to anything.

Counsel for prosecution here offered in evidence an affidavit of Lyman H. Northup. As only a portion of this affidavit bore upon this point, only that part was read, and was as follows:

"That during the last summer Mrs. Parshall, the wife of R. F. Parshall, asked deponent how much deponent would take to settle the matter of the assault by said Parshall upon Polly Pike; that the elder wished her to settle it, and that she would pay whatever amount was required to settle

it; that the elder had told her about it; that she had seen Miss Pike, and that she was satisfied and wanted to settle it.

LYMAN H. NORTHUP.

Sworn to, before me this 31st day of December, 1859.

PETER HOLBROOK, *Justice of Peace.*

The statement of Susan C. Tefft, was then offered and read. It is as follows:

STATEMENT OF SUSAN C. TEFFT.

JANUARY 2d, 1860.

By request of Mrs. Parshall, soon after her arrival at our house, on her first visit from Janesville, when she came alone, Mr. Tefft sent for Mr. Cronkhite, she desiring an interview with him at my house. Mr. Tefft and myself were present by the request of Mr. Cronkhite. He commenced the conversation with his first acquaintance and impressions of Mr. Parshall, stating interviews as they occurred, and telling of his interview with Mrs. Freeman, and what Mrs. Freeman told him as being what Polly told her as the acts of impropriety committed by said Parshall toward her near her father's house, and at his own house sometime after. He also stated that at an interview which he had with said Parshall, he told Parshall that he had learned from a source which he did not doubt, that he had insulted Polly Pike at the abovementioned times and places, and that he, Parshall, said it was too true; he had no excuse to offer, the devil got the start of him, &c.

She, Mrs. Parshall, stated that she believed it was true; that before she left Janesville Mr. Parshall told her what occurred at the bridge, and said, "Wife, I cannot tell you all, you would hate me if I did; but when you get to Sandy Hill, you go to Brother Cronkhite and he will tell you all."

I was present at an interview between Mrs. Parshall and Polly Pike in front of Mr. Durkee's house. Miss Polly Pike then stated that before reaching her father's house Mr. Parshall said that he loved her, and that she rebuked him; and after they got to the bridge took liberties with her person; and that at his house he came into her room three times in one night; and among other liberties he attempted to get into bed with her, and did get his foot in, but that she resisted him, and told him if he did not leave her room she would expose him. Mrs. Parshall repeatedly said, on her way to my house, "How Mr. Parshall has deceived me! Why did he let me come when he knew all about this Polly Pike matter? I would not have come to Sandy Hill if I had known these facts. I am ashamed to look anybody in the face."

She stated at the interview at my house with Mr. Cronkhite that Mr. Parshall had suffered that week with hemorrhage of the lungs; but Mr Parshall said if Bros. Tefft and Cronkhite thought it best, if she would write him he would come on immediately. Mr. Parshall once said in the presence of my family and a young lady and young gentleman, as we were leaving the tea-table, that if he had known as well before he was married what pretty playthings the girls were as he had known since, he did not know but that it would have made a fool of me.

SUSAN C. TEFFT.

Signed in presence of
SARAH C. SALISBURY.

The letter of Parshall to Hughes & Northup was again read, to prove that Mrs. P. professed to act as the authorized agent of her husband in settling his matters.

The statement of Kate Pike, sister of Polly, was then read as follows :

STATEMENT OF KATE PIKE.

SANDY HILL, January 17, 1860.

In conversation with Mr. Parshall in regard to the affair between my sister and himself, I told him that Mr. Cronkhite insisted upon some one telling his wife, to which he replied, "Mr. Cronkhite does not know my wife as well as I do; it would break up my family." KATE PIKE.

Eastwood then read the affidavit of Emeline S. Bennett, as follows :

AFFIDAVIT OF EMELINE S. BENNETT.

Washington County, ss. :

EMELINE S. BENNETT, of said county, being duly sworn, says that she lived in the village of Fort Edward, right on the opposite side of the street from the Baptist church, and some time in the winter of 1857, and I think in the month of February, one day, being in my front room, I saw R. F. Parshall come out of the church into the hall or lobby. He stood and talked with a woman, and then he stepped back behind the door and took hold of the woman and pulled her back with him ; and they were there some three minutes, and then Mrs. Breese came into the lobby, and then Mr. Parshall walked off and appeared to be looking up to the wall ; and the woman walked to the door and stood there until Mrs. Breese went into the house. The woman then walked back to the window, and then Parshall walked back to where the woman stood, and then put his arm around her and pulled her back behind the door, and stood there four or five minutes, and then the woman sat down by the window, and Parshall went back into the church. The above took place in the afternoon, and at the time Elder Raymond was assisting R. F. Parshall in a protracted meeting, and I told some one of the above facts, and the same day Mr. Parshall heard of it, or at least he came to me and charged me of telling the story, and said it must stop, or it must not be told, for he would put a stop to it ; that is, having the story told ; but I told him that I did tell the story, and that I see him do as before stated, and that it was true, and he then admitted it was true, but thought I ought not to tell of it. EMELINE S. BENNETT.

Sworn before me this 9th day of July, 1859.

JAMES S. REYNOLDS,
Justice of the Peace.

The accused remarked that he wished the resolution passed by the council at its last session was repealed, for then this affidavit could be explained away by bringing the witness before the council.

Eastwood said the prosecution had affidavits upon other cases they wished to bring forward, but the witnesses were not present in person, as it was not supposed this part of the case would be reached so soon. As to Hiram Niles, we shall probably fail to procure his attendance.

He promised to come but is not here. The affidavit of Hiram Niles was then read in evidence, and was as follows:

AFFIDAVIT OF HIRAM NILES.

Washington County, ss.:

Hiram Niles, of said county, being duly sworn, testifies as follows; That R. F. Parshall admitted that the following statements were true, that is, that he, Parshall, came to my house, in the village of Fort Edward, in the month of June, in the year, A. D., 1857, in the evening, when my wife and myself were absent from home, and rapped at the door a number of times, and that Mrs. Sarah T. Cook came and told him twice that I and my wife were gone down street, and that Emma, my daughter, was not well and had gone to bed; but that he did not pay any attention to her, and kept on rapping at the door till Emma got up and came and let him into the house, and that after he, Parshall, went into the house, he said he did tickle Emma's sides, but he said he did it to cheer her up. I then asked him what he pulled up her clothes for, and he said if he pulled up her clothes it was done when he went to put a shawl around her shoulders. I had a talk with Mr. Parshall about the above the next day, and he owned the most of the above then, and then he went away and agreed to come and see me the next evening, but did not come. I waited till after the second evening and he did not come; I then went and got Thomas Sherwood to write him a letter, and on Mr. Parshall receiving Mr. Sherwood's letter, he came immediately and see me, and confessed all that is before stated, and asked my forgiveness, and said he would pay me just what I asked to settle it, if I would only let it drop, as it would injure him very much if it was known; I told him I did not want his money at all, but I did not want him to insult my daughter again, and that he must keep away from my house, which he promised to do. When Mr. Parshall was in the house there was no light burning.

HIRAM NILES.

Subscribed and sworn before me, July 11th, 1859.

U. G. PARIS,
Justice of the Peace.

Henry Tefft called: Niles said to me that his affidavit was true. He said one change should be made: the offer of money was at his *first* interview with Parshall, and not the *second*, as stated in the affidavit.

Cross-ex.: I got this affidavit. I saw Niles twice to get it. I got his statement and drew up the affidavit the same evening. He said the affidavit was true, and he was willing to come forward and face Parshall; I tried to get him to come before the council.

Dea. J. King called: I heard Niles say his affidavit was true in all its parts, with the exception mentioned by the previous witness—that is, the offer of money was at the first interview instead of the second. He said he would come before the council and face Parshall. He also said Parshall agreed to meet him (Niles) at Cronkhite's store, but he had been there and the Elder was not there; said he told P. he ought to horsewhip him.

A discussion here ensued as to the admissibility of testimony under the resolution of the council, allowing the church to present evidence "as may suit them."

Eastwood said, that on account of the absence of witnesses, they should be obliged to leave this point and proceed to some other specification, and would take up that of falsehood.

The defendant objects that there should be a *distinct charge* of falsehood; the evidence is not admissible under this charge. Two days after this council adjourned, I was served with twenty-three specifications, and seven days after this with twelve more. I do not propose to meet these supplemental specifications before this council, because they were not served in accordance with the order of the council. To meet them will require travel of 1,400 miles, and from two to six weeks time.

Eastwood said, at first we served all the charges there were; the matter is all the time accumulating, and the supplemental specifications were served as soon as the facts therein stated came to our knowledge. The defendant has had ample time to rebut them.

Member Council: Do these specifications contain the charge of original sin? if not, they ought to.

Council adjourned till morning.

WEDNESDAY, January 18.

The council opened its session by prayer by Elder J. H. Pratt, of Granville.

Counsel for the prosecution offered another letter bearing on the Polly Pike case.

Elder Pratt suggested that some form of oath or affirmation be taken by the witnesses. No action was taken on the suggestion.

The letter was then read as follows:

LETTER FROM PARSHALL TO TEFFT.

JANESVILLE, *Friday morn.*, 3 *o'clock.*

MY DEAR BROTHER: I cannot sleep, and I have arisen to converse a little with you. You say, "the testimony is beyond a doubt." Now, Brother Tefft, what do you mean? that I have been all that that charge embraces? Licentious. If so, there is something wrong, and individuals are combined to ruin me. Now I have been trying to take up week by week and look the past all over, and while there is much over which I have and do now weep, yet when you come to illicit intercourse, that is not so. Now there is another instance of impropriety besides that of Polly Pike, and I want to refer to it without calling names. One of the young brethren was very intimate in a given family. I overheard another young man say, he knew that he went there for no good purpose, &c. I resolved to know, but out of no wrong motive, and took liberties until I became satisfied it was false. I told this young brother that he was suspected, and what I had done; also

that I had talked with *her*, and with the intention of telling her why I did as I did, but she said she did not think me wrong, so I told her no more. I should have spoken to brother Cronkhite about it when I talked with him, but I thought it was not best. This was going on two years ago. In looking the act over after I had done it, I felt very bad and saw I had done very wrong, though I had no wrong in view. You say you have kept as much as you could from Mrs. P. I wish you would not. I feel that I want her to know all. I know I feel a deep sorrow, and have for a long while, for those things, and I am willing they should all be known, only as they may affect others. I felt that I ought to state this matter, and this is the only other instance where I have thus acted. My wife says they have referred to Kate Scoville—that I took liberties with her riding—that I got her to drive. I asked Ella; she remembered all about it; I drove that bay horse I got of you, and he ran most of the way, and she never touched the lines but once—then she caught hold of them in fun. Ella sat between me and her both ways. But I will say no more. I have been praying all night, and I do feel that God will not allow the Church which he has built up through me to take from me, that which to me, is dearer than life—my connection with it, at least, without a fair chance for a trial.

Weeping and praying I wait in anxiety for a reply from you. I wish you would tell me all. I know there are a great many false statements made. Ralph says, that he wrung my nose until it bled, and I got on my knees and begged.

Now that is all untrue, and I presume other statements are of the same kind. Pray for me. Yours,

R. F. PARSHALL.

Eastwood said the object of reading this letter is to show that Parshall admitted another instance of impropriety which he did not tell to Cronkhite; and he also said it was complained by defendant last evening that there had not been sufficient evidence then offered to show that Mrs. Parshall was authorized to act as agent in settling the Polly Pike matter.

He offered the following statement as additional evidence upon that point.

I certify that I saw a letter from Elder Parshall to his wife, in his own hand-writing, authorizing her to give three hundred dollars to settle the Polly Pike matter. S. C. TEFFT.

SANDY HILL, Jan. 18, 1860.

Eastwood, for the church, then offered the affidavit of Caroline T. Baker, who was present.

Parshall objected to reading the affidavit, if the witness was in the room. He wanted to *see* the witness testify.

The question of allowing the affidavit to be read, or having the oral testimony of the witness, was argued, and it was finally decided that the witness, being present, should be examined before reading her affidavit.

Caroline T. Baker called: I am acquainted with Parshall, and am a member of the church. I was baptized by him. I lived with the

Elder in 1858. One night when I was in bed in my usual bedroom, he came in without a light, and placed his hand on my bosom; I immediately turned over on my face, when he left the room, got a light, went down stairs, and was gone about three minutes, I should think. He then came back, and putting his light out, came into my room again, and put his hand on my shoulder. I said, "What do you want?" He said, "Are you here?" I replied, "Yes," when he left the room and I saw no more of him that night. Mrs. Parshall was not at home that night; she left the day before for the West. The Elder has kissed me—has kissed me several times when I was in a room alone, and I have reproved him for it. He was in the habit of kissing the members of his family when he left or returned home, and kissed me with the rest. I left the house the next day after he came to my bedroom, and went to my cousin's, Mrs. Nelson's, at Dunham's Basin, and told Mrs. Nelson of the transaction, and she told her husband. I left Parshall's with the intention of not going back, but they both advised me to go back and keep the matter still, and I did so. Mr. Nelson thought there must be some mistake about it, and advised me to go back, and, if anything further occurred, to come to him immediately and he would see to it. During the winter, defendant called me into his study one day, and asked me if I had told Br. Kirkham that he (defendant) was a devil and hypocrite. I told him I had not. Some time after this, I rode to Fort Edward with the Elder, and Kirkham rode about half way down with us. After K. had got out, Parshall asked me if I had ever told that he came into my bedroom, and I said I had not, though I had told Mrs. Nelson. Afterward I saw Elder Parshall at the court house, at my request, and told him I *had* told of his coming into my room, and should persist in telling of it. He then denied that he had done so—said I was mistaken—said Mrs. Nelson did not believe it, and said he would call again and talk with me about it, but he never did. I was induced to deny it, because I knew he would deny it, and I could not *prove* that he did, and I thought that as he was a *minister*, people would believe *him* before they would *me*. I have a father, but he did not bring me up. Uncle Nicholas Northup brought me up. I have no mother living. [Witness in tears.] I have always looked up to Mrs. Louisa Nelson for advice as a child to a mother.

Cross-examined:—Kate Pike was at Parshall's house sewing, on the night he came to my room. I retired early, and she came into my room and wanted me to sleep with her, I told her I was abed, and perhaps after the Elder went to bed I would come and sleep with her. I did not say, "Kate, I am going to sleep with you down stairs tonight," and there was no such understanding before I retired.

Several questions were here put to the witness, in regard to her admissions to different ones, that the understanding was, that she was to sleep down stairs with Kate, and she unequivocally denied ever having made any such assertion or confession. and that there *was* any such understanding at the time.

To defendant: I went to bed before prayers. You came in first without a light, then got a light and went down stairs and came up in about three minutes and put your light out and came in again. I said at Nelson's I did not know what your intentions were at that time. I was at your house about seven months, and was treated as an equal in the family, and not as a servant. I have said you were as kind to me as a brother. I saw nothing before nor after that time showing you to be a licentious man. You were all very kind to me, and I have said I was very much attached to the family, and could not have been better treated. That was the only impropriety I ever saw in you. I never prayed, "Oh Lord, if our pastor must leave, send us another such."

Defendant here asked witness a large number of questions in regard to her declarations to others, repeating them, all of which she denied.

To defendant: The next morning after I rode with you, Mrs. Parshall called me into her room and said, "I have heard that you are talking about us." I replied, "Yes, and I am sorry for it." Just then some one came in and the conversation ended. I did not regard your kissing me with the rest of the family as improper. I was one of the family, and treated as such; I presume I sometimes came to you for advice. The morning after you came into my room, there were some remarks made about it at the breakfast table. You said I liked to have had a bed-fellow last night. I remember you laughed about it, and made light of it, but I did not: it was not a matter of jeer and sport with me. I only remember the remark you made and my reply. Mr. Shine came to see me quite frequently while I lived at your house. He was not there the night I have mentioned. I left the morning after the insult, telling Libbie where I was going. I never sat up late at your house. You said nothing to me the morning I left about my sitting up so late. I never sat up late in your house and you never reproved me. You treated me with the same courtesy after my return from Dunham's Basin as before.

Re-examined: I felt insulted that night and left in consequence, and went to Nelson's. I thought it was a wrong act, and I could not stay without advice. Defendant has kissed me when alone at different times when he was not leaving or just returned home. I had confidence in him up to the time he came into my bed-room. He came to the cars for me with an umbrella when I returned from Nelson's.

To defendant: You told me you thought you would come up with an umbrella, because it was raining. I have rode with you many nights, and you never insulted me at those times. You generally treated the family all alike.

To Gale: I could not regard defendant's ministrations the same after this. I had lost my confidence in him, and did not think him the man he professed to be.

A member of the council here called for the reading of the witness's affidavit, and it was accordingly read, and corresponded in every particular with her oral testimony.

Deacon Baker was asked and said he drew the affidavit just read—had never drawn but one for her, and knew of but one.

Witness to Member Council: I have never given but one affidavit. It was the *second* time that he came to my bed that he asked the question, "Are you here?"

Elder Pattison inquired which word was emphasized in the question, "Are you here?"

Witness said she did not know.

Eastwood: The question was like the sentence in the old English Reader—"Do you ride to town to-day?" You can put the emphasis on whichever word you choose. (Laughter.)

Mrs. Louisa Nelson called: I am a member of this church; my maiden name was Louisa A. Northup; Caroline T. Baker is my cousin. She has lived at my father's house ever since she was eight years old. I had the principal care of her after she came to our house until I was married, six years ago. I know nothing against her character for truth and veracity. The day after the affair at defendant's house, Carrie came to our house on the cars, and as soon as she had an opportunity said to me, "Louisa, I am in trouble, and want advice." She then told about the Elder coming into her room the same as she has told it here to-day. I asked her why she did not make an outcry. She said, "Aunt Louisa, I *could* not." I told her I thought it natural she did not wish to go back, but that I did not feel competent to advise her. She said I might tell Mr. Nelson. I told him as soon as I could, in her presence. He asked her some questions, and said she must be mistaken. She said she knew what she was telling. We both advised her to go back and say nothing about what had happened, and if the insults were repeated to return to us at once. The defendant was at our house three or four weeks since, accompanied by his brother, nearly an hour in earnest conversation. He asked Carrie for a private interview, and she said there was no necessity for that. He said it hurt his feelings much to hear she had said such things about him, and that she was lower than he thought she was. Quite a lengthy conversation followed in which he said she had made certain admissions, most of which Carrie denied. The defendant said, among other things, that she admitted to his family that she had been insulted by four or five others, and she denied ever having admitted anything of the kind. When Carrie came to our house she said the insult was the night before.

Cross-examined: I have had no particular conversation with Carrie since that conversation at our house. I think I told Cronkhite that what Parshall said Libbie would swear to, confused her, and she did not know what she was saying.

Re-examined: The Elder enlisted her sympathies and somewhat excited her fears. He told what he could prove against her, and said he should do it if she came here before the council.

William B. Nelson called: (At this time there was much noise and confusion in the crowded church, and the witness said:) If the audi-

ence will just keep quiet, I will speak loud enough for all of you to hear. It should be remembered that we are in the house of God, and are transacting business for eternity. I am the husband of the last witness. Caroline told my wife the story just as you have heard her tell it here to-day; and my wife spoke to me about it, and asked me what she had better do. I said it could not be possible a minister of the Gospel would do all she had told. I told Caroline I couldn't hardly believe it—I thought she must have been a dreaming, and that there certainly must be some mistake about it. I told her she had better go back, and if anything of the kind happened again to let me know it, and I would attend to it immediately. She went back, and I saw her next Sunday at church. Says I, "Caroline, how is it?" "All right!" says she. [Boisterous laughter and noisy demonstrations.] I do hope the people here will keep a little stiller. They ought to consider that this is God's house, and that the business we are doing is for eternity. As I was saying, I saw her at church on Sunday, and said to her, "Caroline, how is it?" "All right!" says she; "no more trouble." That's about all. [Renewed laughter.]

To defendant: I admitted to you that Carrie got confused, but did not say that she stated differently after you left. When you was at my house your brother was with you.

Potter, of the council, desired Elder Brown to take his seat in the council, instead of sitting with the accused.

Elder Brown said he was here to take notes, and his conscience acquitted him of any unchristian designs in the course he was pursuing.

Michael Shine called: I frequently called to see Caroline T. Baker when she lived with defendant. I never stayed later than 10 o'clock. I think I was not there the first week in November, 1858; I might have been there the 7th of November; if I was not there the 7th, I was not there at all in November. I was boarding at Scoville's at that time. I think I called and went to church with her on the 7th; the 7th was Sunday. I have no recollection of calling there at any other time in November; called there often in January and February. In November my business was such that I could not get away. I called there for the purpose of visiting Carrie as an old acquaintance; I have known her six or seven years. Her character is good.

Cross-examination, to defendant: I kept no memorandum of the number of times I called. My calling seemed to be a matter of mutual interest to the family. I sometimes spent a short time with Miss Baker alone in the sitting room. I called when I felt disposed, and used to keep good hours; I generally left about 9 o'clock. You used to attend prayers, and I left before that.. I can swear I never stayed in your house later than 10 o'clock. I used to run in when I pleased. My attention was first called to the fact that I would be wanted as a witness the day before yesterday.

To Eastwood: I was so engaged during the week-days in November, that it was inconvenient for me to call.

Mrs. E. D. Baker called: I am well acquainted with Carrie Baker,

and have been ever since she came to Nicholas Northup's to live—perhaps fifteen years. I never heard anything against her character or reputation, and I consider her a truthful girl. I am a member of the Presbyterian church in this place.

Henry Tefft called: Elder Parshall denied to me ever having gone into the bed-room of Caroline T. Baker at two or three different times, and afterward he admitted it.

Cross-examined—to defendant: You denied it once in my house, once in my barn, and once in the street; I remember it clearly and so do you, I guess.

Katie Scoville called: I reside in Fort Edward, and am acquainted with the defendant. I shall be sixteen years old the 24th of May. In February, 1858, defendant invited me to ride with him to Dunham's Basin, to a protracted meeting. He told me Mrs. Parshall was going, but she did not. I went with him and his daughter Ella, a little girl. We went up by the way of the canal. We had not proceeded far before he insisted upon my driving the horse. He then put his hand on my bosom, and so far unhooked my basque as to put his hand in my bosom. I desired him to desist and he did so. We stopped at Mr. Nelson's to a prayer meeting. The meeting was commenced when we got there. The Elder made a prayer, and we then went on to a school-house where there was preaching; Parshall preached, I believe. He again attempted to put his hand in my bosom between the prayer meeting and preaching meeting. We came back by Sandy Hill. Between Sandy Hill and Fort Edward he repeated the same attempts. His daughter left the cutter at the Post Office, in Fort Edward, and he drove on through the village. When near the aqueduct he told me I must say nothing about what had occurred. My house is now, and then was, just across the canal bridge. He drove by my house, and soon put his horse on a walk, and tried to kiss me, and then put his hand on my bosom, and seizing me about the waist thrust his hand under my dress and attempted to put it on my person, and I resisted him. He then asked me an improper question, and I told him it was none of his business. The question was, whether I was unwell. I asked him where he was going to take me, and he said for a short ride. I told him I had rode far enough, and I would get out. He then drove back, and when we got to the house he asked me to go to his study and have connection with him; I went into the house and made no reply. I should think it was between 10 and 11 o'clock when we reached Fort Edward that night.

Cross-examined—to defendant: I was at school when you asked me to go to Dunham's Basin; school was out at the time. You had asked me to ride with you several times before that. I did not go to your house after that, and never to spend any particular time. I always spoke when you met me in the street. You never called at our house more than three times when I was at home. I never rode with you before that time. You sat between Ella and me in the cutter. When you attempted to put your hand in my bosom, I told you

to stop, but did not speak very loud. I knew you heard me, but I don't think Ella did. You merely took your hand away for the moment. I am *sure* you put your hand in my bosom between Nelson's and the school-house, and I resisted you and hunched you. (Defendant here put a number of questions to witness, in regard to the particulars of the transaction, to some of which she replied, and said, "You know how it was as well as I do: I have told you.") You did thrust your hand clear into my bosom between Nelson's and the school-house. You attempted it but once between Nelson's and the school-house. The Post Office, in Fort Edward, usually closes at 9 o'clock. When you put your arm around my neck I pushed you off; you then attempted other indecencies, and I fought you so hard you kept away. I am not a member of this church. I have lived in Troy. I cannot describe the horse you drove on that occasion. You had Mr. Flint's covered cutter.

To a Member of the Council: Ella was requested by Parshall to leave the cutter.

Hannah Sturtevant called: I am aunt to Katie Scoville; I live with Katie's mother, who is my sister; Katie told me about this occurrence immediately afterward; she came up into my room and sitting down on a stool, said she would tell me something if I would not tell of it; she then told the story the same as she has told it here to-day; she seemed much frightened; she talked with me about it the same night it occurred; I told her if he was such a man, he would sooner or later be exposed, and she had best say nothing about it at present; I belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. The defendant came to Mrs. Scoville's lately with his brother; he made many threats while there—called Mrs. Scoville a liar, and I thought, talked very bad to Katie. He said he was low down, but was going to have Katie lower still. He said they had come to compromise the matter—that it would be better than to have a trial, if Mrs. Scoville would only consent to it. She said she would not. He then said a part, or one half of the church had crawled into their holes, and in a few days he would have two thirds of them in.

Cross-examined—to defendant: I have been at Mr. Pratt's for two or three days. Have not seen Tefft there until this morning, when he came to bring us up. I was up stairs when the conversation commenced. I heard you talking loud to Mrs. Scoville, and went down to see what was the trouble; I went down, thinking there might be some words said which were not proper, and I would hear what was said anyway.

Mrs. Scoville called: I am the mother of Katie Scoville, and a member of the Fort Edward Church. A short time since, Parshall came to our house with his brother, and commenced talking, and spoke for Katie; she was at school and I sent for her. He said he and his brother had come to try and settle the matter in some way, and not have Katie injured. He spoke of the Sandy Hill church, and said that he had made one half them crawl into their holes and

would make two thirds of them do so. I said, "You won't make me, for I don't fear you." I told him what Katie had said, and that I wanted her to tell it. He said the affidavits had all been kept from him, although Cronkhite said they rightfully belonged to him.

Parshall: I object to this testimony, as entirely irrelevant.

Witness: You well know, Mr. Parshall, that you said you would *ruin* Katie.

Cross-examined—to defendant: You said Polly Pike had withdrawn her affidavit, and you could not now compel her to come to Sandy Hill. You said the witnesses had all withdrawn them but one or two. Those were your words. I said I would not have Katie withdraw her affidavit.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock, P. M.

Council convened at the hour of adjournment, and Eastwood read a verbatim copy of the entry in the Fort Edward church book:

At a church meeting, held at Baptist meeting-house June 2d, 1855, sister Nancy Jane Bennett was excluded for telling falsehood.

United March 10, 1855. M. GRACE,
Ch. Clerk.

Eastwood here offered the affidavit of John G. Talbot, of Sloansville. The defendant made three objections to the admissibility of the evidence. 1st: The act charged was committed when pastor at Sloansville, and must be brought before that church. 2d: the name of the female is unknown. 3d: It occurred during his pastorate of seven years; and a lengthy discussion followed upon this point. The defendant argued that he was not, strictly speaking, amenable to this church for any of his acts, except while he was a member of it. He had not objected to the introduction of the Fort Edward matters, because the two were so intimately connected, and he had rather "die a big death than go limping around forever." He had been to Sloansville and got some statements, but no affidavits. This church had no power to try him upon deeds committed while he was connected with another church, unless they had been *officially* informed and called upon to hold him to account for the same. They have *not* been officially informed; hence, he objected to the testimony offered.

It was contended, on the part of the prosecution, that a mere *letter* from a church did not cover up all his misdeeds while in connection with that church. If those facts did not come to light until *after* he had obtained his letter, he was still responsible to the church with which he was connected when they *did* become known. When the defendant got his letter from Sloansville, these facts were not known; they have since come to light, and we claim them as legitimate proof upon this trial. Upon this principle, a minister may commit adultery in one place, and before the fact becomes known, obtain a church let-

ter, and the church to which he goes cannot try him upon it, because his letter shuts out every act committed prior to its date. With the same reason, he might preclude us from introducing proof of his acts while connected with *this* church. He got a letter from this church, the same as from Sloansville, because his acts were *not then known.*

Again, one may see him in the *very act* of adultery and not know the female. Is the *act* any the less proved because the witness did not know the woman?

Several resolutions and motions were offered, and the discussion resulted in the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That we confine ourselves to hearing testimony concerning the character of defendant while he was a member of the church at Fort Edward and Sandy Hill.

This decision excluded all testimony as to the character and acts of the defendant prior to the time he became connected with the church at Fort Edward, and since his connection with the Sandy Hill church had ceased.

Eastwood, for the church, then offered evidence under specification 12, and called

Warren Bell: I am acquainted with R. F. Parshall. I was at a school-house where he preached at Fort Edward Centre. After the sermon was over I went home, and soon heard a rap at the door. I went to the door, and defendant was there and asked if a young lady, named Miss Northrop, was there that evening. I told him I did not know, as I had been to meeting. I then asked my mother, and she said "No"—but asked what Miss Northrop it was. He said it was Miss Northrop from Fort Edward, and said she told him she would stop at Mr. Bell's. He said she came down with him, and he had made a mistake and come to our house instead of another Mr. Bell's, and that she must have gone there. Miss Northrop was not in the church that evening, as I saw.

Cross-examined—to defendant: I did not see Miss Northrop that night. You told me she came with you. I did not see her go away with you. I have no hard feelings toward you; and am sure I never said I would tar you.

Counsel offers a witness in the Emma Niles case.

Mrs. George Cook called: I reside in Fort Edward; am a member of the Episcopal church. In 1857 I lived next door to the house occupied by Hiram Niles, and saw defendant call there one evening. I was standing at the house this side, at Mr. Hickok's gate, and saw a gentleman pass and did not know him at first. He went to Niles', and I told him Mr. and Mrs. Niles were away from home, and that Emma was in bed. I told him so twice, and he then turned around and I saw it was Parshall. He then went in himself. I sat on my front steps nearly half an hour and he did not come out in that time. I saw no light in the house; if there had been one in the front part of the house I could have seen it. Emma Niles came round to my house in the morning and said, "I

would have given $50 to have had you come in last night." I replied, "I would not have spoken to him, if I had known it was him, for $50." Emma said to Mrs. Gray, in my presence, that she had a beau last night.

Parshall called upon me some three or four weeks after that conversation; he had never called before that. When he came in he wanted to have some conversation with me, and I stepped to call in a neighbor. Mrs. Hickok came in, and Parshall and I had a conversation, but none before she came in. He said he understood I had been reporting stories about him and Miss Niles. I told him I never had spoken of it except to him and Emma. He then said, "I understand you have not got a deed of your place," and I said that was none of his business. He spoke of a certain sister Cook, and called her "my sister;" said he understood I had made remarks about his going to sister Cook's, and called her his "sister in the Lord." I said, "sister in the devil." He then said, a gentleman had told him I was one of the God-damnedest meanest whores in Fort Edward. I said no gentleman would speak so to a clergyman, or one who professed to be a clergyman. We had a good deal of conversation of about the same import. He accused me of trying to set up Mr. Niles against him. I told him I had never spoken to Mr. or Mrs. Niles upon the subject at all. He spoke about sister Cook and sister Brown. I received an anonymous letter some time after this—think I received it in less than a month afterwards. [The letter and envelope were bere shown to the witness and were indentified by her as the ones she received.] I had an idea who this letter came from. I thought it was Elder Parshall. I had no reason to think it was anybody else. I thought he wrote it, because he had used me so at my house at the time he called. The language of the letter corresponded with the language he used when he called upon me.

Cross-examined: I knew that Niles and wife were away, because I saw them go, and Mrs. Niles told me she had put the children to bed. You had your hand on the knob and went in so quick that no one could have opened the door but yourself. Mrs. Hickock was present during most of our conversation; she was in during the ugly part of our talk. I never mentioned your going to Niles' until I mentioned it to you when you came to our house. [Defendant here asked her a large number of questions concerning her declarations, &c., most of which were denied by the witness.] I never signed a libel; never signed one to Mrs. Gilchrist.

Counsel for the prosecution here remarked that they were nearly through with the testimony. He read the following affidavit.

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIAM ROZELL.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, SS.:

William O. Rozell, of said County, being duly sworn, says that he resides at Fort Edward, in said county, about forty or fifty rods east of the railroad. That some time in the month of July or August, 1857, be-

tween the hours of ten and twelve o'clock at night, this deponent was passing the railroad track at the east of the village of Fort Edward, on his way home; that on crossing the track aforesaid, and when this deponent had got but a little past the same, he saw a man and woman at his left, over the fence; and this deponent says that on passing by the said man and woman, he recognized them to be R. F. Parshall and Emily Niles; and this deponent says that when he first saw them they were lying down close together; and this deponent says he passed by them some two or three rods, and stopped to watch their movements; and this deponent further says that he watched them two or three minutes, when they rose up and walked up into the railroad track, and went off. And this deponent says that he was then and is now acquainted with the said Emily Niles and said Parshall.

WILLIAM O. ROZELL.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 16th day of July, 1859.

JAMES L. REYNOLDS, *Justice of the Peace.*

Elder Parshall objected to this affidavit being received, as it was for the purpose of proving a specification which was not served upon him until seven days after service of the first. He inquired if the deponent had not endeavored to recover that affidavit.

The question was not answered.

The prosecution now proposed to introduce testimony in regard to the authorship of the anonymous letter, and called

Orange Ferris: I am an attorney and counsellor at law, and county judge and surrogate of Warren county.

I have seen the anonymous letter and envelope, shown me, and the genuine letters, signed R. F. Parshall, and I believe these are the same letters I examined at Glenn's Falls about two weeks since. I believe the anonymous letter signed "one for many," was written by the same hand as the letters signed R. F. Parshall. I have no doubt of it; there are several marked points of similarity between them.

Cross-examined: I never saw defendant's writing until lately. Henry B. Northup came to me with those communications. I do not call myself an expert. I do not profess anything beyond ordinary humanity in detecting handwriting. My business is such as to lead me to scrutinize handwriting.

John Alden called: I am cashier of the Glenn's Falls Bank, and have been for seven or eight years. I have been engaged in banking business some thirteen or fifteen years. My occupation leads me to scrutinize handwriting. I have seen the anonymous letter shown me, and some of the genuine letters. I have compared and examined them before, somewhat. I think that the person who wrote the other letters, wrote the anonymous letter. I have very little doubt, if any.

Cross-examined—to defendant: I have seen your signature a few times. I judge that they were written by the same person, from the resemblance of the handwriting. It is possible for one person to imitate the handwriting of another.

Re-examined: It is evident, upon the face of it, that the anonymous letter is written in a disguised hand. I think the resemblance between the two letters, is in spite of an attempt at disguise.

Cross-examined: I found the letters in the room at the Bank, when I came in. Messrs. Eastwood, Northup, Ferris, and Stone, were in the room. I don't know whether they are members of this church.

Judge O. Ferris recalled: I think the anonymous letter is an attempt on the part of the writer of the other letters, at disguising, and can state my reasons.

A motion was here taken, as to whether the witness should state his reasons, and it was so ordered.

Witness: My reasons are, a striking resemblance in many of the letters, in the letters *d*, *m*, *h*, capital *I*, and some others. Some of these letters are very peculiar in their formation; they are similar in both letters.

Cross-examined:—I think it would be possible to imitate the anonymous letter. It would be hard for a man to write, and come as near the genuine letters as this anonymous letter is. I could not do it. There is something about writing, like the human face, which it is impossible to describe, but is there. I will mention further the capital *F*. Some of the letters are *very* peculiar; not one in a hundred writes so peculiar. The orthography is bad in both. There is a close resemblance between the two, that carries conviction to my mind. In regard to the word "*and*," it is very peculiar. I may be mistaken, but that is my conviction. I thought there was an attempt at disguise, but with poor success. I have no interest in this trial; am not acquainted with the parties to it.

Adjourned until half-past six o'clock.

Frederic A. Johnson called: I am cashier of the Commercial Bank at Glenn's Falls. I have seen the anonymous letter and the letters of R. F. Parshall shown me. It is my opinion they were written by the same person. I have no doubt of it in my own mind. I don't know as I have any opinion as to whether it is an attempt at disguise. I have no doubt they were all written by the same person. I have seen them before, and examined them carefully.

Cross-examined: I don't know that I have any particular faculty in examining writing It is part of my business to examine writing every day. I have never been called upon to examine writing in such a case as this before. My opinion is based upon the similarity in the writings; the same as I see a man once, and when I see him again I know him. I may be mistaken. If I thought the man's life depended upon it, I might scrutinize a little more carefully, but I think they were written by the same man.

Mr. Northup presented the letter to me. Mr. Chesshire and Eastwood were with him. I have been engaged in banking business about eight years.

Defendant objects that time is being consumed and we are getting no nearer the point—we get only the opinions of men.

Moderator rules that the evidence offered is proper to bring in the anonymous letter as evidence.

Henry B. Northup called : I am a lawyer ; my business has led me to examine handwriting to a considerable extent. I have not the slightest doubt but that the same person wrote all these letters. In all cases the capital "*G*" is peculiar, and such as I have never seen before in any writing. The letters *d, t, m, e, I,* are peculiar. The misspellings in all the originals and the anonymous letter are the same. The carrying out of the lines on the right hand is the same in both. A large space is left on many lines where words might be added. In addition there is the general appearance. I am acquainted with the defendant's handwriting from correspondence.

Cross-examined : I have been employed by the prosecution in this case to do their writing, and have taken an active part to show this anonymous letter to experts, and in ascertaining its authorship. I should deem it an impossibility for one to copy as near as this anonymous letter is, without he had the letter before him—impossible unless he had the letter before him to copy it from. It is *possible,* but not *probable* for one to make as good an imitation as this. Some writers might sit down and make a very similar one to this. There are a number of similar misspellings in the genuine and anonymous letters.

Mr. Cronkhite called : I am well acquainted with defendant's handwriting ; have had an extensive correspondence with him ; have noticed his writing particularly. His writing is very peculiar. My opinion is that Parshall wrote the letter styled anonymous. It is my opinion he wrote the letter, from my knowledge of his handwriting.

Cross-examined—to defendant : I have been engaged in measuring and presenting evidence in this case. I have said that I had been your friend, and that now believing you guilty I should do what I could to get evidence against you.

Henry Tefft called : I am well acquainted with the handwriting of defendant. Am clerk of this church. I have corresponded considerably with defendant. I have seen the anonymous letter, and think it was written by Parshall. I have no doubt in my mind.

Cross-Examined : I should not expect such language as this letter from him, as a minister, but that does not alter my opinion of the writing. I have heard Parshall use profane language in Mrs. Vaugh'ns hall. I do not call myself an expert in this matter. I know his handwriting well.

Eastwood here offered to read the anonymous letter in evidence, and a vote of the council being taken upon the subject, it was ordered that the letter be read, which was as follows :

"Fort edward Mrs. geo Cook I want to say a few words to you—you damd old slandering bitch you have talked all you will about my sisters

dam your old stikin soul You had better go and say your prayer you god dam old hipocrit you can slander me and and others as it is your trade but you old lier let my sisters alone you must an old whor or you would not mistrust every body else you say one more word about my sisters and I will burn your hous over your head in less than one week dam your old stinkin soul

one for many."

Elder Parshall said he had all along discovered an evident design to bring out something before this council calculated to shock its sense of propriety, and they had got it at last. He denied the authorship of that letter before God and this community.

The prosecution offered to read the affidavit of Charles A. Hawley.

Parshall objected to this affidavit on the ground that it was one of the supplemental specifications, and as charging him with criminal conversation with an *unknown* woman, contrary to the resolution of the council at its last session.

Elder Gale asked if the council were willing to compel the defendant to refute charges which were not, according to the gospel rule, supported by the testimony of two or three witnesses?

Parshall complained that this charge was sustained only by a single affidavit, and he had no opportunity of even cross-questioning the maker of that single affidavit.

The council decided that the affidavit be ruled out.

The prosecution here rested their case, reserving the right to call Messrs. Andrews and Shipherd, if they should come before the trial closed.

The defendant asked for an adjournment until morning, as he had not supposed the church would close their case that night, and his witnesses were not present. The council accordingly adjourned, after the closing prayer, by Rev. Mr. Fisher.

DEFENCE.

THURSDAY, *January* 19, 1860.

Council convened at 9 o'clock, and the opening prayer was made by Rev. Mr. Pattison.

Mr. Parshall then opened the defence, by saying that he proposed to give a brief synopsis of the past, and lay open what he hoped to do in this unhappy matter, for which the council was called together. You were told by the counsel on the other side that my mouth had been put to the ear of every man, and my finger in every one's palm. I have never talked with but four members of this council, and never written to but one. I left this place and went West, *not* as has been said by the other side. Sick upon a Western bed and unable to be here, I sent back my letter with the accompanying reasons. I wrote

I should not be here, but afterward retracted that and sent my defence. I intend to show that a plot was laid by Ralph P. Freeman for my money and my ruin, and failing to get my money, he then brought it to the door of this church, or to some of its members, and that those individuals received the declarations of Freeman and went into the work. I am prepared to show that I was advised by the clerk of this church not to attend the trial. I propose to show that evidence has been secured, and that twenty dollars was offered to one person, and I have his affidavit to that effect. I intend to show that the anonymous letter is but a swivel in the link of this mighty chain. I ask your patience while you listen to the defence. All I ask is as fair an opportunity as has been granted to the plaintiff. The defence will be necessarily zig-zag, rather than in a straight line. I shall first show that there was a plot by the individual named for my money and my ruin.

Mr. Gale then made some remarks, saying he had been solicited to assist in this defence, and after repeated solicitations had consented to do so. He would not crush this church for his right arm. If what had been proved against his client was true, he was one of the most despicable men he ever saw, and he would not stand by him one moment.

Mr. Cronkhite was then called: I sent a letter to Parshall, asking him to send back his church letter. That was based in part upon what I had heard from Freeman and from members of the church. The superscription to my letter was "Mr. R. F. Parshall," or "R. F. Parshall, Esq." I afterward became satisfied that the charge of Lydia Pike had been magnified.

Question: Did not Freeman come to you with many slanderous reports concerning me?

This was objected to by plaintiff, on the ground that Freeman was not on trial; and a discussion followed as to whether evidence of the existence of a plot on the part of Freeman and others was admissible. The moderator thought it was outside of the course followed by the prosecution, but upon putting it to vote, the council decided to admit evidence of the plot or conspiracy.

Question: Did Freeman ever tell you I should not preach any more?

Answer: He said you must not preach any more; that you promised him you would not preach any more. He afterward said he would not be satisfied that a man of your character should preach any more. He stated in my store several times that Cheesman had suspicions that there was improper intimacy between you and your wife's sister. I have had no interview with Cheesman or his wife upon the subject. I have been intimately acquainted with you—have known you as well as from my knowledge of human nature I could know another. I have dealt with you to the amount of several hundred dollars a year, and have read items of bills to you. I read part of your letters to Henry Tefft. You made several requests for specifications and copies of the affidavits. I don't know how many times you re-

quested the specifications. You complained that he did not send the affidavits and specifications. I received a defence in the handwriting of yourself and your wife. It was not presented before the other council. You requested me not to present that defence, and said you should make no defence. I could have left out a part of the defence or all of it. The moderator of the former council requested any one who might have a defence for Parshall to present it. I did not present it on account of your letter requesting me not to.

Cross-examined: This matter has been a topic of general conversation for many months, and I have heard many expressions from many individuals. Ralph P. Freeman was the first one who told me of the insult upon Polly Pike. When he told me of the matter I told him I didn't believe it. Freeman is a brother-in-law of Polly Pike. I received a letter from Parshall before the 16th of August, saying he should make no defence; he said he had made all his arrangements to come and bring his family, and thought his health would admit of it; but he had been informed by an aged brother that it would be useless, and had decided not to come; he said, "Have it all your own way." Freeman first told me of the insult to Lydia Pike.

Levi Stewart called: I am acquainted with Freeman. One morning I met him going to his farm, and he said, "I have drove Parshall off; I said I would drive him off, and I have done it." Some time after this, Freeman said that Parshall was a G—d d—d rascal, and a G—d d—d whoremaster, and he could prove it. He said he wrung Parshall's nose at Fort Edward, and made him cry, and said he (Freeman) was going to Chicago some time in June, and he would follow the d—d scoundrel to the end of the earth but he would ruin him. I remember of no other expressions.

Cross-examined: I don't recollect as Freeman said, at that time, that Parshall was a bad man.

To Member of Council:—I don't know whether Freeman is a friend or supporter of the Baptist church; he has been heretofore.

Re-examined: Freeman has attended all the business meetings of the church. I had a conversation with Mr King some time in June. He said Ralph told him, a day or two ago, that he had got the statements of five or six witnesses and their affidavits, and, he thought enough to hang the d—d villain. King said he did not know who they were, but Ralph said he had got them.

To Member of Council.—I don t know as there is anything in the character or word of Freeman, to give him any particular importance over other men of the world, in relation to the church. His wife is often here to church, and is a member, and Freeman often comes with her. I wouldn't take his word until I saw Cronkhite, and some other members. At the church meeting, Freeman was running from one to another and whispering, but took no other active part.

Cross-examined: I don't recollect as I stated to Freeman that I had had my suspicions of Parshall for over a year. I said there had

been a number of rumors afloat, but whether they were true, or false, I did not know ; I never had any such suspicions.

Mr. Pratt called: I am acquainted with Mrs. Sturtevant ; she has been at my house lately.

Eastwood inquired if this witness was called for the purpose of impeaching Mrs. Sturtevant.

Parshall: My object is to show what she said at Pratt's house, and what she said of my visit at Scoville's. I do introduce the witness to impeach her testimony.

Witness: I heard her say you (defendant) was there, and called to see Mrs. Scoville and her daughter. She said they talked very foolish ; said she told them, after you went away, that they ought to be careful. She said you was very calm, and she told them you did not come for a quarrel, and that you told them so ; merely came to talk with them in a friendly manner. She said, your (defendant's) brother appeared to be a gentleman in every respect ; nothing more in particular was said ; there was a general conversation ; she said they misused you (defendant) very much.

Hiram Cole called: I am acquainted with Freeman ; my name is on the church book, I suppose, but do not walk with the church, and have not since Parshall was excluded, at all events. In substance, I have heard Freeman say what Stewart has repeated, about his going west. He said he would have Parshall out of the ministry, if he had to go to Troy and get whores, and pay them five hundred dollars to swear him out of the desk.

Eastwood: We will admit that Ralph Freeman has said *anything*. It has no relevancy to this case, and Freeman is not on trial.

Parshall: I will accept this proposition, and read what I can prove.

Eastwood: No. You may state what you please that Freeman has said, and we will admit it, but you must not read it.

Cross-examined: I refused to pay my subscription after Parshall left, and will explain why, and shall insist upon my right to do so. I alleged a reason for not doing it. I called Parshall a whore-master in this manner. I told Mr. Cronkhite and others, when they asked me to pay my subscription, that as they had given the Elder a letter when they knew or believed him to be guilty of these charges, it was like obtaining money under false pretences, to ask me to pay, and I would not help to pay any whore-master's bills. I occasionally use profane language ; presume I did on that occasion. I was informed that more than one knew of Parshall's acts. Ed. Finch was the first one who mentioned the matter to me so that I believed it. I understood that Finch and Cronkhite knew of it.

Re-examined: I never have believed that Parshall was wrong—there was never anything in his conduct that showed it.

John Teft called: I am a member of this church, but do not walk with it wholly, and have not since this unhappy affair—since July last ; I have ceased to walk with the church on account of their course

with Parshall ; I am acquainted with Freeman ; two years ago last June I was riding with him and he told me of a trade between himself and Parshall, and said Parshall had not done as he agreed, and he said he told Parshall he was a d—d sneak. He also told me he would put Parshall down before he left the place. Freeman stopped at my house last spring some time, and said, if he (Freeman) had a certain wagon of mine, it would soon be carrying Parshall around among the d—d whores ; and he said that Parshall was a d—d liar and d—d hypocrite and whore-master.

Cross-examined : There is not a good feeling between me and Elder Chesshire, but it is in no way occasioned by Parshall matters. Freeman and I have had no difficulty, except about this affair. When the church commenced proceedings against Parshall, I was opposed to the *course* of the church, but not to the *proceedings.* I thought I saw a conspiracy in it, in the church and out. The church did not take the gospel course ; they never strived to save the man. In respect to his lying, it was decidedly wrong. I never saw, or was knowing, personally, to any improprieties or imprudences of defendant, while he was here. I heard something that was said of him in relation to a party that was here. I have changed horses with him, and have known of his changing horses at other times.

Re-examined, to defendant : I think, from what I have seen, that there is a plot, or conspiracy on the part of Freeman and others, to ruin you.

Cross-examined : I think I do know of a conspiracy on the part of persons connected with this church, to ruin Parshall. I have never seen any writing or contract to that effect, or heard any one say anything about the conspiracy in particular.

Ira Laraway called : I am a member of this church; I know Freeman. I think I have been the mark that Freeman has been shooting at; Freeman has put the Elder and myself together. Freeman has told me that Parshall should not preach, and that he would follow him clear out where he lived, and he would put him down out of the ministry. Freeman said he would go to Sloansville and get things against the Elder, and do it that way. I think I heard Freeman say Parshall was a d——d whoremonger son of a b——h.

Eastwood again offered to admit that Freeman had said anything, and defendant offered to read what he could prove. He said, "I have been guilty of but one act of impropriety, and I want to prove that I was deposed by unholy hands—that there has been a conspiracy," &c.

Ex. Con. : Freeman and I have had some conversation about his being engaged in this matter. I told him he better not engage in this matter, as it would injure him, and he talked as though he had not been; and again, at another time, that he had not been much.

Cross-examined : Freeman said he thought Parshall was not fit to be a minister. I am not walking with this church in full, and have not since Parshall was excluded. I have attended the second advent

meetings ; I believe in the second coming of Christ. I once said that Parshall was like an underground railroad, and I think you'll find he's one, too, before you get through with this concern.

Re-examined: I have been acquainted with Parshall for years past. So far as I have seen, and have had knowledge to get to, he is just about as clear a man from licentiousness as I ever saw. When I said he was an underground railroad, it was in a public congregation on the Sabbath; they were going to get up a protracted meeting. I did not call him an underground railroad because I thought his character was bad.

Mrs. S. P. Vaughn called: I am a member of this church; I have had but little conversation with Freeman. He came to my gate once and commenced talking with me about Parshall. He said he had driven him away from here and would drive him away from where he had gone to. I have been acquainted with the accused for years past, and have never seen anything in him derogatory to a Christian minister.

Cross-examined: Parshall has made it his home at my house during the progress of this trial.

Samuel Hines called: I am a member of the Adamsville Baptist church, and am partially acquainted with Freeman. I never had any conversation in particular with Freeman. He said some things to me on the day of the trial. He said to me the same language that has been given here before. He said, with oaths, that Parshall was a rascal, and a scoundrel, and a whoremonger, and that Elder Parshall should never preach any more in America as long as he (F.) lived. I know nothing derogatory to the charater of Elder Parshall, but I have enjoyed many blessed seasons with him.

Cross-examined: I think Freeman said this at the close of the session of the council that deposed Parshall, last August.

Defendant read a letter from Hughes & Northup, which was as follows :

LETTER FROM HUGHES & NORTHUP.

SANDY HILL, May 20, 1859.

REV. R. F. PARSHALL—SIR: Mr. Philip Pike has retained us to attend to the matter of the assault by you upon his daughters. The case of the assault by you upon his daughter, while returning from a protracted meeting at Dunham's Basin, has come to his knowledge since you left this State. He thinks that when a *minister* assaults a young lady, under fifteen years of age, and a *member of his church*, while returning from a *religious meeting*, and is foiled, and then the *Rev. Divine* makes a similar attempt upon an older sister, under similar circumstances, the case calls for decided action on his part. He has instructed us to take the necessary steps to obtain your return to this county, to stand a trial upon the charges against you. Our mutual friend, Mr. Ralph P. Freeman, contemplates a visit to Wisconsin and Minnesota during the present summer, unless his business matters west are satisfactorily arranged. Any arrangements you may wish to make in this matter may be made with us, or through Mr.

Freeman at your place in June next—if you shall prefer to arrange with him, and shall so inform us. Trusting that we may hear from you immediately, we remain,

Yours, &c.,
HUGHES & NORTHUP.

Defendant then read another letter from H. & N.

LETTER FROM HUGHES & NORTHUP.

SANDY HILL, June 22, 1859.

Rev R. F. PARSHALL—SIR: Your note to our Mr. N. is deemed by us a notice from you, that we must take such a course as our duty to our client shall require. We shall act accordingly.

Yours truly,
HUGHES & NORTHUP.

Eastwood: Are Hughes & Northup on trial also, and are they in the alleged conspiracy?

Parshall: I do not know that Lyman Northup is a conspirator in this matter; I do not claim it.

Moderator said defendant had a right to make it appear that persons were employed by Freeman to carry out his alleged designs.

Defendant here read a letter from L. H. Northup.

LETTER OF L. H. NORTHUP.

SANDY HILL, N. Y., July 30, 1859.

R. F. PARSHALL—SIR: Your letter of July 6th is received and would have been sooner answered, but for my absence west. Your letter to Mr. Pike has been placed in my hands, and I have heard stated the contents of a letter from Miss Bailey to Miss Pike. I had hoped that my correspondence with you had ended, but you seem to desire its continuance. "Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad."

Your contemptible threat that "I might retort upon yourself," is worthy of you. *I scorn the threat and you, too.* You either intentionally misstate my letters to you, or else you are incapable of correctly stating them. You write as follows: "I feel, sir, that a fair investigation of all my acts would be a relief—a perfect relief." Allow me to say that on a "fair investigation" of some of your "acts," an affidavit was read stating that at a late hour of night you were seen lying with Emma Niles under a fence, and this, too, at a time about nine months previous to the birth of her illegitimate child; and another affidavit has been made, that about the same time you were seen to have sexual intercourse with her. Is that the kind of "perfect relief" you desire? Please have your "brother-in-law" remit the $100 for each time.

Will you also be kind enough to remit to Mr. Freeman the $1000 you offered to pay him, if Polly Pike would say that you ever insulted her. The proof in that case you cannot doubt—she has so stated to your wife and you admitted it. Your sister-in-law saw you come down stairs in the night undrest, and go into her room, and saw you there three times in one night. As to your other propositions, there are so many *cases* of yours, that I will make a reasonable deduction for the ready money, or satisfactory security.

You express great anxiety for "truth" in your last letter to me. Now Elder, if your *conscience* troubles you for *forgetting* to tell brother Cronkhite that there was but one case, had you not better make a clean breast of it and own up the whole truth at once, and not be forever doing it by piecemeal. Ought you not to have written who the "other" case was? There have been so many cases that I am fearful that you may create suspicion against the wrong person. Ought you not to do "justice to myself (yourself),and truth," by making a full disclosure? Your different letters to me and the letter to Mr. Pike are irreconcilable. If one is true the other is false If your confession to L. W. Cronkhite was true, your letters to me and to Mr. Pike were false. If either of your letters were true, Miss Bailey's statement is false. But if her statement was true, how came she down stairs behind the door after she had been to bed, and how came she to see you undrest, come down stairs, and go into Miss Pike's bedroom? How came she to see you go there "three times in one night?" What were you there for? What was your business there? Would not these things "soil the garments of an angel?" Well may you say, "I am ruined!" And why do you foolishly and uselessly seek to involve and ruin the reputation of your sister-in-law? Why parade her before the public as watching your visits to young ladies' bed-rooms? Why connect her name so infamously with yours? If your or Miss Bailey's statement is true why do you not return here *with her* and meet the foul charges against you? Why do you complain of poverty and want of means in one letter and in another insolently offer to pay $100 for proof of a fact that you admitted to Cronkhite and to your wife, and which your sister-in-law says she saw committed?

"Truth will triumph." Aye, true; and when that takes place, you will stand forth in all your deformity. Your history at Sloansville will then be exposed. Your "DOMESTIC" affairs will then be known. The intrigues and amours at that place as well as at the Fort and here will be opened to the public gaze. What a "perfect relief" that will be Elder! Your name has become a by-word and a reproach. Trusting that you will see that your "brother-in-law" remits me the $200, and that you will, as a man of "*truth*," remit Mr. Freeman the $1,000,

I have the honor to remain,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

L. H. NORTHUP.

P. S. I shall be in the neighborhood of Sloansville in a very few days. Perhaps I shall there hear of something to your advantage. I have a correspondent at Janesville, and I understand that there are some suspicious circumstances likely to come to light as having transpired during your wife's visit here. L. H. N.

Moderator: The letter is wholly irrelevant unless it can be shown that the writer was employed by the alleged conspirators.

Adjourned for dinner.

Counsel for prosecution objected to the admission of the letters, because they were written subsequent to the meeting of the former council, and, after a general discussion, the chair ruled that the defendant might proceed in the way he had begun.

R. B. Perry called : I am not a member of any church ; have been engaged in this affair ; I went to Sloansville and Saratoga to get affidavits ; I have been employed by Tefft and Cronkhite principally ; I have heard Freeman talk a good deal about defendant, and say many hard things, but I cannot repeat his words, as I never paid any particular attention to him ; I have not regarded myself as subject to the direction of Freeman at all, but to Tefft and Cronkhite ; Cronkhite had nothing to do with my going to Sloansville ; I was employed by Tefft.

The defendant here read the following letter from Henry Tefft :

LETTER FROM HENRY TEFFT.

SANDY HILL, June, 18, 1859.

DEAR BROTHER :—I take my pen in hand to address a few lines to you on business that is not as pleasant as I might wish, for I am very sorry to learn of the course you pursued while here. I was in hopes, after the first stories came out about you, and the church tried every way to clear you, that then you would try and do better, but it seems you continued the same course right along, which I am sorry to learn. Now you remember that you told me at the time you carried Em. Niles home, and the time the stories were told about you, that you knew nothing about her ; but I sm satisfied, from circumstances, that you did know all about her, and they tell me that the Miss Bennett that they used to talk to you about, and the stories, they say are too true, and other girls, and also the two Pike girls, which they say there is no dispute about at all. Now, Br. Parshall, I had tried to look for better things from you, but it seems to me that you must have been perfectly deranged on that subject. It does seem as though a minister of the gospel of Christ, should do entirely different, and set a better example than that you set while here. It seems that one thing after another followed right along. Now the church here do not feel satisfied at all with your course, and they feel, under the present circumstances, that it is not right for you to go from here, with letters as in good standing, with such things against you, and they feel as though it was duty to cite you to appear before the church to answer the charges against you, and they feel as though they did not want you to use your letter at all ; and furthermore, they want you to send the letter back that is yours, for it is wrong for you to continue in the course you have, and still undertake to preach ; and the church now request that you send your church letter back, to answer to the charges that are preferred against you, at your earliest convenience, say July 2—or, if more convenient for you, say the 6th of August, at one o'clock of either of those days. But the church want you to return your letter at once. The charges or two of them, are for the course you pursued with the two Pike girls, Polly and Lydia. Now, I think if you send back your letter, it will probably be the best thing you can do, and further, I think if that is done, it will stop R. P. Freeman, and if it is not done he is determined to follow you to the last, and I advise you as a friend, to send your letter back to me, and then try and conquer your passions. Mrs. Parshall's letter can be sent back to her, or she can use hers before sending yours, if you choose ; but you had better attend to it at once and save further trouble. Yours,

HENRY TEFFT.

MR. R. F. PARSHALL.

LETTER FROM L. W. CRONKHITE TO PARSHALL.

SANDY HILL, June 20, 1859.

ONCE RESPECTED AND LOVED BROTHER:—Your letter of some weeks since was duly received. You inquire what is up. After receiving your letters, I saw R. P. Freeman and learned of him that your suspicions were entirely correct. I also found out, for the first time, that he had heard from Polly Pike's own lips, all that occurred between yourself and her on the bridge near her father's. Also the particulars of what occurred at your own house; he also informed me of the particulars of your insult to Lydia Pike at a time previous, some months, which has since been confirmed by the testimony of Mrs. Freeman, to whom she imparted the facts on her return home from the Basin and meeting. Other evidence has since transpired from other parties of the same character. I have also learned from entirely reliable brethren and sisters of the Fort Edward Church, that there is evidence there, producible at any moment, apart from that already mentioned and alluded to, which would be satisfactory and conclusive before any court of evidence, and I assure you that after conversing with those who have been your truest, most unwavering, blindest friends, there is not a particle of hesitation on their part, without an exception, that one quarter of the evidence that is brought forward, unimpeachable, undoubted, direct evidence, would satisfy them that you were unworthy and unfit to preach the gospel of Christ. It is our firm, calm, mature, sad, inexpressibly sad conclusion, that you are, and have been for some years, the unresisting, cunning subject of a fearful, horrid, ungodly monomania, and it is the deliberate, unyielding, conscientious intention of those who, as conscientiously and with stern unyielding, have for years upheld you and screened yon with honesty of purpose, now to ask you that you surrender immediately to this church, through some of its membership, your church letter by which you are recommended to the confidence and affection of the Household of Faith. You will readily see the propriety of our request, and you also know that in case of neglect, or refusal on your part to comply, we cannot, and, as honest men, with the honor and welfare of Christ's cause at heart, we shall not shrink or hesitate to take prompt and immediate steps by which, as a church, our records and testimony, as a church, shall bear witness to your acts among us. We advise this course as we think it the cheapest and shortest. If you give up your letters under a plea of guilty, with our recommendation in our hands, we may not deem it duty to prosecute you farther. If you refuse, or neglect immediately to comply, we shall cite you to appear before the church and answer to abovementioned charges and others, and upon neglect to appear, or after trial, exclude you and notify the church at Janesville, and publish you in our papers, although before that time, it would be advertised through our Herald. Dea. Baker joins me in the above remarks and conclusions, and asks me to sign his name.

Truly your friends,

L. W. CRONKHITE.

G. M. BAKER.

Deacon J. Pike called: I am a member of Fort Edward Church; am acquainted with Nancy J. Bennett (Osborn). I heard a conversation between Tucker and Parshall at the old Fort Edward Church. Nancy Bennett was there with them at the time; Parshall asked her

some questions in regard to some stories she had told about him, and she denied having told the stories. Parshall said she had, as they came from reliable sources, and she denied it again. He said, "You have reported stories that I have insulted you in my house," and she said, "I have not." I paid particular attention to the conversation, and she denied the whole charge, and said he (Parshall) had always used her like a gentleman. I have been acquainted with her and the family ever since she was a child. I have been informed since that time that her character was bad—that she would lie. So far as I have heard, her character has been called untruthful.

Cross-examined: I had not known much of her before that time; think she was a member of the church at that time. I think there had been no labor taken with her at that time. I was close by during the conversation spoken of.

Mrs. R. F. Parshall called: I knew Nancy J. Bennett in Fort Edward the first winter after we came there. She came out in that meeting. Hattie Cook came to Parshall and myself and said she saw Nancy with a collar on which she (Cook) worked herself, and Miss Cook said she thought it was wrong conduct, as she (Bennett) was a member of the church. I promised Miss Cook to invite Miss Bennett home here and did so. Parshall told me to take her alone and talk with her. I told him I could not, so he invited her into an upper room where our children lodged. There were three children in the room; the eldest, Ella, was then nine years old. I remember a meeting at Hunter's after this; we met there by request; we conversed about this collar and the reports she had circulated that Parshall took improper liberties with her in that room. I do not know whether she was then excluded from the church. Ella stated that, "Pa and that girl came up there and that there were no chairs in the room, and Pa and the girl sat down on a trunk there, and he talked to her about a collar." They came to the conclusion at Hunter's that Nancy had told a falsehood.

Deacon Pike re-called: The conversation was had right away after the protracted meeting at Fort Edward.

Zina Tucker called: I am a member of the church of Fort Edward. I went with Parshall to meeting at the time referred to. He preached that evening, and after the sermon Kate Pike proposed that we get Parshall and Nancy J. Bennet, and have that subject talked over. Parshall told her he heard she had reported unfavorable stories about him; she said it was not so; he said he understood she had, and she still denied it. She said at last he did put his hand on her bosom. I am positive she then said at last that he put his hand on her bosom. I think I have known Parshall to do wrong.

Cross-examined: Brother Pike was in the yard at the time, but not near where we stood. I might be mistaken. I was a member of the church at the time this girl was excluded, and was present. She was excluded for lying, as I understood.

Re-examined: I heard Parshall say her character was bad. He

asked her if she was not in a barn with a young man once. I did not go with him to visit her. I never heard any unfavorable reports about her up to that time. She was excluded for lying.

Cross-examined: It was proposed to appoint a committee to investigate the matter. Parshall said that it was not necessary, as there were witnesses, and he would not belong to a church where she was, and he or she had got to walk. There has been some difficulty between Parshall and myself.

Defendant here read the affidavit of Nancy Stow:

AFFIDAVIT OF NANCY STOW.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, SS.:

Nancy Stow, of the town of Fort Edward, in said county, being duly sworn, doth depose and say: That she is acquainted with the Rev. R. F. Parshall, and has been for about two years last past. And deponent further says that she knows a girl that was formerly called Nancy Jane Bennett; that she became acquainted with said N. J. Bennett the last of July, 1856; that said Nancy then came at this deponent's house to live at that time, and remained with this deponent until the last of January, 1857; that during the time she so remained at deponent's house this deponent was sick, and said Nancy did the work for my family; that during the time aforesaid, which said Nancy so worked for deponent, she was not away from deponent's house more than one night at a time, until late in the fall, when she went to her father's and remained for a day or two.

NANCY L. STOW.

Sworn before me, this 16th January, 1860.

JAMES L. REYNOLDS, *Justice Peace.*

Defendant read affidavit of Emma Niles:

AFFIDAVIT OF EMMA NILES.

Emma Niles, of Kingsbury, Washington county, N. Y., being duly sworn, doth depose and say: That she is the daughter of Hiram Niles, of Kingsbury, aforesaid, and that her age is seventeen years last December; that she is well acquainted with Rev. R. F. Parshall, and has been acquainted with him ever since he commenced his services as pastor of the Baptist church at Fort Edward, in Washington county. And this deponent says that she has been informed that said Parshall is now resting under charges which are to be tried soon, before a council of the Baptist church, at Sandy Hill; that some of such charges are of imprudent and licentious conduct toward or with this deponent. And this deponent further says that the said Revilo F. Parshall never, at any time or place, had any improper, imprudent, illicit or licentious intercourse or carnal connection with this deponent; and never, at any time, by word or act, solicited or requested, or sought, in any manner, to have any such intercourse with this deponent; and never, during her whole acquaintance with said Parshall, committed any act or uttered any words in the presence or hearing of this deponent, or to the knowledge of this deponent, unbecoming or unworthy

of his character as a clergyman or a Christian; but this deponent says, that he always, and on all occasions, treated this deponent with kindness and respect. And this deponent says she has heard that unfavorable reports have been circulated against said Parshall in regard to his conduct toward this deponent, on one occasion when he called at the house of the father of this deponent, when this deponent was sick with a felon upon her hand; and therefore this deponent states all the facts in relation to his conduct on that occasion, which was as follows: The said Parshall called at the house of this deponent's father, in Fort Edward, and this deponent went to the door and invited him in, and when said Parshall entered the house, this deponent exhibited to him her hand with a very bad felon on the same, which had recently been lanced; that this deponent was in very great pain, and commenced weeping, and the said Parshall took hold of this deponent's arm and said to this deponent, "Cheer up; there is no use crying; courage is half the battle;" or words to that effect; and at the same time tickled the side of this deponent, and without stopping to sit down, after remaining but a moment or two, walked to the door with this deponent, and while so approaching the door the said Parshall took hold of this deponent's shawl, which had fallen off from her lame shoulder, and in replacing the same, this deponent thought, also took hold of and lifted up her dress; and this deponent says that the above statement contains all that was done, and that there was nothing further done or said by said Parshall on that occasion.

EMMA A. NILES.

Sworn before me this 17th day of January, A. D., 1860.

JAMES L. REYNOLDS, *Justice Peace.*

Eastwood: Is this the Miss Niles who brought forth a child lately?
Parshall: I don't know; I wasn't there.
Defendant read affidavit of Sarah A. Niles:

AFFIDAVIT OF SARAH A. NILES.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, SS.:

Mrs. Sarah A. Niles, of Fort Edward, in said county, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that she is acquainted with Rev. R. F. Parshall, and has been for about five years last past. Deponent further says, that she is a member of the Baptist church at Fort Edward, and joined the same during her residence at Fort Edward; that she is the mother of Emma Niles; that she remembers the time that said Parshall called at deponent's house, and referred to in the affidavit of Emma, heretofore made. That a short time before said Parshall called at the house aforesaid, this deponent further says, she called at the house of said Parshall and said to him, that Emma was quite sick and had a bad felon on her hand, and said to said Parshall that she wished he would call at her house and see Emma, as it diverted her mind to have people call, and they called at his house when his family was sick, and that she thought he did not do as well as their former minister, that he used to call on them often; and said Parshall then said he would call soon. That a day or two thereafter, she met said Parshall on the street in the forepart of the evening, and said P. addressed her, this deponent, and said that he had just come from her house and had been there to make a call, and found no one at home but Emma. Deponent

further says, that at that time, she thought nothing of the circumstance, and did not deem it at all improper, or imprudent in any way, and that she believes that there would not have been anything said, nor nothing thought of it, had it not been for Mrs. Sarah Cook, who seemed to be desirous to make a breach or disturbance between deponent's family and Elder Parshall; and that from her, Mrs. Cook's statements, she seemed determined to injure said Parshall, if it was possible for her so to do; that at the time said Parshall so called, it was just at dusk, and was not late; that this deponent was not away from her house more than ten or fifteen minutes, and to the best of this deponent's information and belief, said Parshall was not at deponent's house the time aforesaid, to exceed five minutes.

Deponent further says, that said Parshall has since said time as aforesaid, often called at deponent's house, and that he always conducted himself properly, and as became a minister of God, and during her acquaintance with him she never has seen anything improper, or unbecoming in him in any way, as a minister, or otherwise.

SARAH A. NILES.

Sworn to before me, this 12th day of January, 1860.

JAMES L. REYNOLDS, *Justice of the Peace.*

Ira Laraway called: I am somewhat acquainted with Emma Niles, and have called upon her lately. I asked her if she had ever seen anything in Parshall which was wrong, or which she would have thought anything of, if some one else had not spoken of it, and she said "no," that so far as she was concerned he was clear. I had a conversation with Niles; I don't remember his words, but he said Tefft came to see him several times; I think he said Tefft told him he would be forced to come by law, if he did not give his affidavit. I have got such an impression somehow—can't tell where I got it.

Cross-examined: I got the impression from Niles, I think—think he said some part of this affidavit was not true, something about the money. I supposed Parshall understood what the matter was, and I didn't pay much attention to it.

Daniel Parshall called: I am a member of the Presbyterian church; I visited Niles in company with Laraway; I called with the affidavit of Emma and her mother, and they hesitated at first about signing them. I then talked with the father, and he told how his affidavit was obtained by Tefft. He said Tefft came to him four times, and the fourth time told him if he didn't give the affidavit, he should take legal process and bring his whole family to the church. He said Tefft brought the affidavit, and read it, and while reading it, he (Niles) stopped him and said that was not correct. Tefft replied that he would strike that out and read on; Niles stopped him again, and Tefft said, "you sign it and I will explain it to the council."

Cross-examined: I live in Rochester city—have been here but a short time. I came here to assist my brother. I never use profane language.

E. A. Andrews was called for the prosecution, and testified as follows: I am cashier of the Washington County Bank; I have been engaged in the banking business for thirty years; I have seen the

anonymous letter and its envelope, before referred to on this trial and the other letters admitted to have been written by the accused. [The anonymous letter, and those of Elder Parshall shown the witness.] My opinion is they were all written by the same person; I have very little doubt about it.

Cross-examined: I have read the contents of the anonymous letter; if I were going to write such a letter, I think I should try to disguise my hand.

Direct: I think the letter was written in a disguised hand; if a person tried to counterfeit Mr. Parshall's hand, I think he could not come so near the genuine as this letter; I once had a counterfeit, or forged note, passed upon me, but then I did not know the man's writing, and took another's word for it; I base my opinion upon the character of the writing; I have looked at nothing but the writing.

To M. C.: I have not looked to see if there are any other resemblances between these letters than the general hand writing: Mr. Northup came to see me with these letters; I spent an hour in examining them; there are things in the anonymous letter which no counterfeiter would be likely to imitate; a person might imitate a piece of ornamental writing so that it could not be indentified from the original; if the identity of this letter were to settle the fate of a man's life, I should then say, as I say now, I have little doubt of the identity of its authorship with these other letters acknowledged to be Mr. Parshall's.

Defendant here read affidavit of Susannah C. Burton:

AFFIDAVIT OF SUSANNAH C. BURTON.

GLENN'S FALLS, Warren County, N. Y.

I, Susannah C. Burton, of Glenn's Falls, Warren county, N. Y., being duly sworn, doth depose and say; I am acquainted with R. F. Parshall, and have been for several years past; am also acquainted with Caroline T. Baker, and have been for several years past. Some time last spring Caroline Baker came to live at Deacon King's, and Mrs. King sent us young people an invitation to come down, as she said, to get acquainted with Miss Baker. We continued to visit back and forth until about the time of the council in July. At one time when I was with her, the subject came up about the stories concerning Elder Parshall. Deponent says, "Carrie, do you believe the reports about the Elder?" she said she did not; "for in my own case there have been a great many lies told." I asked her if the Elder ever insulted her; she said that she did not hardly herself know; "but I will tell you how it was: one night we were in the sitting room—the Elder was reading, and the girl that was sewing there and I agreed to sleep together down stairs; but I got tired and wanted to go to bed before she did; so I got into bed with the little girl. After awhile the Elder came into my room and put his hand on my breast, and said, 'Carrie, are you here?' I turned over in the bed; he went out into the other room and fumbled around a few minutes, then came out and got a light, and came into my room and gave the little girl some medicine, then went back and I heard no more of him. I did not

know whether he meant anything or not." Deponent asked her if she would have thought anything of it if she had not heard other stories; Carrie said "No; but I lay there thinking it over; and I went and told Mrs. Nelson of it; she told me to go back and say nothing about it, and if I saw anything more to come away. But I did not see anything more before nor since." Deponent also asked her how it got out; she said that "Mrs. Nelson agreed to keep it; but Henry Tefft went and told Mrs. Nelson a lie—that I had been to his house and told Mrs. Tefft all about it, and said Mr. Nelson knew it, and he might own up." But Carrie said that she would swear before God and man that she never told neither Henry Tefft nor his wife a word about it. Deponent further asked her if she had ever told anybody else anything more; she said she had not, but said Mrs. King and Mrs. Freeman had been trying to make her tell more, and tried to scare her and threaten her; and said she would be put under oath and would have to tell more; "but I told them that I knew no more and could tell no more." SUSANNAH C. BURTON.

Sworn before me this 17th day of January, 1860,
C. MORGAN,
Justice of the Peace.

Libbie Bailey called: I am not a member of this church; am acquainted with Carrie Baker; at the time spoken of by her, Miss Pike and Miss Baker made arrangements to sleep down stairs together; one of Mr. Parshall's little girls had been in the habit of sleeping with Carrie; Mr. Parshall said Carrie had better sleep with Annie, and I said it would be better to let the girls sleep where they pleased; Carrie got tired of waiting for Miss Pike and myself, and went to bed in her own room up-stairs; at the breakfast table next morning, Mr. Parshall remarked: "Carrie, you like to have had a bed-fellow last night;" he then said he thought she and Annie were going to sleep down stairs; he heard Annie cough and went up to see to her; there was considerable laugh and talk about it in the family; I don't remember any of the other remarks; I remember that Carrie went away next day to Dunham's Basin; she did not, at the time, state where she was going; she appeared unpleasant, for the reason, as I supposed, that the Elder had been talking to her about sitting up late nights; he had told her he did not allow it in his own family, and that she must discontinue the practice or she could not stay there; she went away one day and came back the next, I believe; she appeared as pleasant and good natured as usual when she returned.

Cross-examined: I am sister-in-law of the accused; I have lived with him most of the time since he married my sister; he has not been in the habit of referring to me as a witness on all occasions when any explanation was needed in his behalf; when an anonymous letter came from Sloansville, he told me he thought I could prove the hand writing, for he believed I had some of the hand writing of the person who wrote it; I am in the habit of riding out with the Elder when I want to go and he will let me; sometimes I want to go and sometimes I do not; Carrie was in the habit of sitting up late nights with com-

pany; it was not the morning after his going to her room that he reproved her for sitting up late; after eleven or twelve o'clock I call late; she sat up as late, or later, than that several times with Mr. Shine, who was in the habit of calling to see her.

To Member Council: Mr. Parshall has always treated me in a manner worthy of a minister, a christian, a good man, and a brother-in-law.

Re-Cross-ex.: I remember that Carrie was in the habit of sitting up with other gentlemen besides Mr. Shine; I usually retired at the same time with the rest of the family; I seldom went to bed before ten o'clock, and several times Carrie came up after I had been asleep; it was her custom to go and come and do as she pleased—to go out walking and riding without asking permission.

To Mem. Counsel: It was before she went to Dunham's Basin that I had the talk with her.

Jacob Pike called: I am a member of the church; am acquainted with Mrs. Stow; was there when Nancy Jane Bennett worked there, in the fall of 1856; I was there threshing; I have heard she was not a girl of very good character.

Cross-examined: I was not much acquainted with her before she was excluded; I don't know of anything against her before that.

Mrs. R. F. Parshall called: I remember a conversation with Carrie Baker which Mr. Parshall requested me to have with her soon after her return from Dunham's basin. I told her that I had heard, aside from Mr. Kirkham, that she had been making remarks about the Elder. I said, "if Mr. Parshall has been imprudent, or taken liberties with you, I want to know it." She said he never had, and she had made no such remarks. I told her it came very direct to us, and we were almost made to believe she had so reported. She persisted in denying it, saying she had never said a word against the Elder, and added, that it would astonish us if we knew how some of our professed friends—Mrs. Tefft in particular—were picking her in regard to the Elder. I had this conversation at the request of Mr. Parshall, who told me she had been making remarks, and he wanted me to talk with her about it. This was in the morning after she came home with the Elder from the prayer meeting.

AFFIDAVIT OF LAURA R. WATKINS.

FORT EDWARD, Jan. 19, 1860.

I hereby state that Lyman Northup called on me last Monday, 16th, and inquired of me if I knew anything of Elder Parshall's peculiar acts. Mr. Northup said that he had been informed that I knew something about said Parshall and Ella Gray. I told him I did not. He then asked me if I had ever lived in the same house with said young lady. I told him I had lived in the same house with her from March till October, in the year 1855. He asked me if I had ever seen said young lady ride with Elder Parshall. I told him I had. He then asked me if I had ever seen Elder Parshall take any liberties with said young lady. I told him I had not. He then said that

some of the folks at Sandy Hill wanted him to come and see if I knew anything bad, but if I did not know anything more it would not amount to anything. He then said if I did know anything they would come down after me, and that I would be well rewarded, or words to that effect.

LAURA R. WATKINS.

Subscribed and sworn before me, this 19th of January, 1860.

U. G. PARIS, Justice of the Peace.

AFFIDAVIT OF HALSEY S. MILLS.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, SS:

Halsey S.Mills, of Fort Edward, in said County, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that last summer he made an affidavit in the matter of R. F. Parshall, which, as deponent has been informed and believes, was used on the former trial of said Parshall; since which time he has learned that he was mistaken as to the facts set forth in said affidavit. That on the 17th inst., and on the first day of the sitting of the present Baptist Council for the trial of said Parshall, he went to Sandy Hill and called on H. B. Northup, Esq., (who deponent was informed was counsel for the church in the matter against said Parshall), and stated to him that he came up to withdraw his said affidavit; that said Northup said it was in the hands of said counciland he could not get it for him. Deponent said he must have it.

Deponent further says, that afterward, Ralph P. Freeman called on deponent and said he had been informed that he, deponent, had come up to get his affidavit. Deponent said he had, and that he must have it Freeman then said, if this deponent would let his affidavit remain and not make a contrary affidavit, he, Freeman, would give him, deponent, twenty dollars. That deponent refused to accept the same, and that he must have his affidavit delivered to him.

HALSEY S. MILLS.

Sworn to before me, this 19th day of January, 1860.

JAMES L. REYNOLDS, Justice of the Peace.

Morrill Grace called: I was present when we met to talk over the Miss Bennett affair. We came to the conclusion to let it rest for the present. She came to me and complained that she had not been fairly dealt with. She wished another interview with Mr. Parshall and some of the members, and we met for that purpose at Mrs. Hunter's. She and the Elder disagreed—he asserted one thing and she another. Parshall's little girl, Ella, said she was present at the time that they were talking of, and that it was just as her father said it was, and not as Miss Bennett said. Miss Bennett asserted that the Elder had put his arm around her and his hand inside her dress, on her bosom. This she told me.

Cross-examined: She persisted in stating that the accused had put his hand on her bosom. She was threatened with having the law put in force against her if she did not retract, but she continued to affirm it. The Elder said his daughter was in the room and was awake all the time and did not see it. At the church meeting which excluded her, a motion was made to that effect rather summarily, I thought, and I inquired, for what? Mr. Parshall said it was for falsehood—

that there were plenty of witnesses to prove it, and that was all that it was necessary to record. I asked if it would'nt be best to appoint a committee to investigate the matter; the Elder said it was unnecessary; he had evidence to prove the falsehood. The motion to exclude her for falsehood was carried, and I so recorded it. There was no other charge against her at the meeting. Her character before that time was good, I believe. Mr. Parshall said, at the meeting at Mrs. Hunter's, that Libbie Bailey knew all about the facts against Miss Bennett, and would state them if called on. Some reports were in circulation about her soon after she joined the church. Mr. Parshall said he did not wish to call out Libbie then, because she had no desire to dabble in such dirty pools. I am certain the accused said he could call Libbie Bailey in; he was then talking of prosecuting for slander. I think I had frequent talks with him about her. I thought a child of Ella's age might be somewhat under the control of her parents; think she was from nine to eleven years old.

To Mem. Coun: The usual course was not taken in bringing Miss Bennett before the church and excluding her. The impression which was left on my mind of Elder Parshall, by the interview at Hunter's, was such as I do not desire now to state. I continued to support him.

Mrs. Parshall re-called: I remember going to Mrs. Hunter's; Ella did not go with us; we sent for her to ask her in regard to the circumstance of Nancy J. Bennett's being at our house on a certain evening. I had never spoken to Ella about it until that evening at Mrs. Hunter's.

Francelia Hardin: I am a member of this church; have been a member two years come February. I recollect a little while before Elder Parshall left here, of sitting in a seat with Carrie Baker, at a prayer meeting, in this church, and of praying with her. She prayed that "the dear Pastor was about to leave, and she hoped the Lord would send another of the same heart." No one has spoken to me about this, except my father did about two weeks ago.

The council took a recess until half-past six o'clock, P.M.

On the re-assembling of the council in the evening, the Moderator explained how it was that a witness had testified that himself and Mr. Northup were present when the letters were examined at the bank in Union Village. He was called to the bank without knowing for what purpose until he got there. Mr. Northup was there with the Cashier, examining the letters in question. He formed no opinion about them; he was not asked for one; and he said nothing about them on that occasion.

Mr. H. B. Northup also exonerated the Moderator from any participation in the examination of the letters at that time, and from expressing any opinion about them.

Elder Parshall: I was informed, at the close of the afternoon session, that I had stated that Lyman H. Northup had offered $20 for an affidavit; I intended to say no such thing—I meant Mr. Freeman.

Thomas Potter, M. C.: I rise to make an explanation. I incautiously made some remarks at the hotel since the session of this Council commenced, to the effect that when I was *fully* convinced and satisfied of a person's guilt, I then paid very little attention to the arguments and quibbles of opposing counsel. By those remarks I did not mean to be understood that I was in the slightest manner prejudiced against the person now on trial.

Henry Tefft called: I wrote the accused several letters. I think like enough I advised him not to come back. I think I said I would not exhibit his private letters; I don't remember that I told Elder Mason, at Union Village, that Parshall had committed adultery and it could be proved, but that I did not want the facts in regard to it brought out. I remember talking with Cronkhite about the Carrie Baker matter. He said he knew about some other matters of a similar kind, but would not tell me then.

Cross-examined: I wrote Elder Parshall I would not expose his private letters; but the reason I did expose them is, that he had exhibited my own letters and talked freely about them, and I felt no longer bound to keep the promise.

Cronkhite called: During a protracted meeting, H. B. Northup and Lyman H. Northup came to my store, and H. B. Northup called my attention by saying that he, being fully aware of the responsibilities, deliberately charged upon Elder Parshall that he had committed adultery with a married woman. L. H. Northup said if we did not commence labor with John Henry Northup, he would come into our meeting and make a public statement against Parshall. I told H. B. Northup that Elder Parshall was able to defend himself. I told L. H. Northup that if he wished to make himself a rowdy he could do so; but if he wanted to be a gentleman he could come to the church meeting and make his charges, and they would be attended to. One of the Northups told me Elder Parshall had promised to commence labor with John Henry Northup.

The following letters were then read:

HENRY TEFFT TO PARSHALL.

SANDY HILL, July 4, 1859.

DEAR BROTHER PARSHALL: While it becomes my duty to write you and cite you before the church, still I have not forgot your labors with us here, I trust I never shall, for I feel that you did sacrifice much for the benefit of others, and I assure you that I will try and pray for you while I live, for I feel that while I am convinced that you have wandered and given away to temptation, that still there was the grace of God in your heart, and I hope you may enjoy it still; but my brother, you may ask what I think about your coming to defend yourself. I will tell you in a few words, that I do not think it best, for I think there is testimony that puts it beyond a doubt

on that subject; and I am further satisfied, that were you to come here now, under the present state of feelings, there would be other proceedings commenced against you. I have talked to Freeman and Northup as plain as I know how, and I have made them promise me that they would not do anything if the church took it up; but they told me plainly, that if the church did not deal with you, they would commence right away. Now the church is compelled to deal with you, for the reports are proved true and they are circulated, so that we should be considered guilty if we did not act in the matter; now, if you wish to come and defend yourself, if the time named in the citation does not suit you, if you will name any other time, I will see that it is put off. Please write to me what you wish to do about it. so that I may know. I have managed to get this before a committee, so as to make as little noise as possible. Write me on the receipt of this what course you wish to pursue. I will not show letters that you wish me to keep to myself. This letter is written, not by authority of the church, but by myself.

Yours,

HENRY TEFFT.

P. S.—Write me and I will write you again. We have kept much as possible from Mrs. Parshall.

LETTER OF FREEMAN TO PARSHALL.

FORT EDWARD, *Aug.* 17, 1859.

MR. R F. PARSHALL:—I saw a man at Fort Edward this day that stated to me that you bore the same character at Sloansville that you did at this place; and he tells me that your wife and sister-in-law well understand you and your conduct; and further, he said hard things about you and her. Now, Mr. P., that letter that was sent to Polly Pike by Miss Libby shows to the satisfaction of all that has seen it, that things are not all O. K. at home. I shall soon, within four weeks, visit Sloansville, when I shall take every pains to investigate your true character there, and all the facts I can pick up there shall be connected with those at Sandy Hill, and a true statement of both shall follow you, and continue to do so. The man I allude to was from Sloansville. I presume you will soon be flooded with the facts in the *Examiner*, and I shall intend to keep you well posted. Are you acquainted with Henry Westfall, Esq., Burt, and Barns, and Teeples? Mr. P., I am on my way north. Let all rest until I return, then more. You have done great damage to yourself and family, and to the families of others, and it is time that you are put down. If you had been here you would have followed in the footsteps of Prof. Poulton; the tools were ready for you. On this, when I say you and her, I don't mean your wife; you know my meaning. P., you ought to of been here; you would been pleased. Mr. P., it is my advice to you, to move to Salt Lake City, and go in with brother Brigham Young. How will you like to see the report of the doings of the 16? It must be very pleasing and interesting to you and all of your friends You have been writing here and calling it Freeman persecution. Freeman must be a man of great influence. Your wife came here and insinuated that the witnesses were bought. As I look upon matters, you and your family were willing to sacrifice every girl in this county to save one villain. I

think you will have to change your business. You can peddle Golden Ointment and swap and jockey horses.

Yours, with all the respect that is due to a villain.

R. P. FREEMAN.

I shall spend two months in your western country this fall and winter, and shall look and hunt you up if you can be found. I shall bring the tools with me.

ELDER HUTCHINSON TO PARSHALL.

SANDY HILL, *July 31st*, '59.

MY DEAR MR. P.:—Yours of the 19th inst. reached me on the 26th inst. I sincerely sympathize with you in your present sad condition. Reports against you are rife, indeed. Last Wednesday the church had a meeting on your case; ministering brethren were invited, four of whom attended, viz.: Mason, Earle, Brown and Hill; Baldwin, of Troy, was invited, but was unable to come. A large meeting was in favor of exclusion at once. It was finally agreed to postpone till the 16th proximo. You ask me what you shall do in this dilemma. I hardly know what to advise. I am shut up in a sick room still, but what I do hear is all dead against you. No defence you can make will alter the final issue of this affair, so far as you are concerned. You are to be excluded. In such a case, what could you gain by coming? not a victory—not a clean letter. You might set the community on fire—you might divide the church, but conquer you could not. If I were in your place I think I would let the 16th of August go by default—throw yourself on the piety of the church, and stay at home, and abide the consequences in watchfulness, penitence and prayer. I would write more largely, but I have nearly lost the use of both arms and hands by rheumatism, so my hand trembles sadly. This is the only letter I have attempted since taken sick. Mr. Hughes cannot undertake your defense, as Mr. Northup, one of the firm, has already written you. A church contra her pastor, *always wins*. I presume you can't read this, so I will subscribe your sympathizing

Bro. W. HUTCHINSON.

P S. Should you come, personal *violence* is broadly hinted. Again, on the highest authority, I am told as soon as the church gets through with you, the Sheriff will arrest you on a warrant; if so, you must give bail for your appearance at court.

All this would involve heavy expenses. Therefore, were I in your place, *I would not come*. So far as I can learn, you have no favor—not one grain—to expect from a single influential church member.

Mason, of Union Village, and the pastor here, last Friday morning, in my sick room, advised me to write you as I have done. Don't let a word of this letter come back here—it is confidential.

WM. HUTCHINSON.

LETTER FROM TEFFT TO PARSHALL.

SANDY HILL, *July 27th*, 1859

MR. R. F. PARSHALL—*Dear Sir*:—We met in church meeting to-day according to appointment, and ministering brethren with us, and I can tell you the church did not feel satisfied with your course at all in waiting till

just as you knew the trial was coming on, before you wrote; and it was not right at all, for I told Mrs. Parshall to have you write at once what you wished to do, and gave her the reasons that was so, that we might know whether to call on council; I also wrote in the letter Mrs. Parshall carried with her, requesting you to write at once what you wanted to do, and if you wished it put off, if you would write me at once it would be done; but you let it pass till the last day in the afternoon, and then mailed your letter. I see it was mailed the 23d, and it arrived here the 26th, and we waited till the 24th before we wrote and sent for the council, we waited on purpose to hear from you before calling C., but it looks as though it was done on purpose, and I assure you the church felt as though you had imposed on them very much, and do not feel willing to put up with such a course, for you could just as well have written right away after Mrs. Parshall arrived home, as to have waited. You wrote to a number of others, and could have just as well written me, and saved a great deal of trouble in the council coming, if you wished it put off.

Now, I advise you not to take such a course again, for they feel that it is abusive; and further: I advise you, if you do not come, to have your evidence here, either personally or affidavits, on the 16th day of August, for I am satisfied the church will not put it off again; and also, you had better write me on receiving this which course you wish to take in relation to the evidence—that is, in which form—whether the witnesses should be present on both sides, or whether it shall be in affidavits, because if you wait as you did before, on purpose to make trouble, your request may not be granted again. William O. Rozell is another witness against you, in relation to you and Emma Niles being out on the railroad bank.

Yours, HENRY TEFFT.

Henry Tefft re-called: Elder Parshall wrote me in regard to testimony, whether he would have the privilege of reading the affidavit of Ella and others, or have to produce oral testimony. In one letter he said something against affidavits; after that he wrote about sending affidavits. He sent no defence to me before the last trial. I received no such documents either from him or Mrs. Parshall. I think I received no defence at all. I received a letter from him just before the council met, stating that he would be here. On the day the council met I got another letter from him, saying that on account of receiving a letter from an aged brother, he had changed his mind and would not come.

Mrs. Parshall re-called: I recollect of reading a defense written by the accused just before the meeting of the first council. I did it up and sent it to the post office, directed to Henry Tefft. When these letters were written he was able to be up but a part of the time; many of the letters were written in bed. All the letters to Mr. Tefft and Cronkhite were not sent. I thought some of them ought not to be sent. Mr. Parshall was so much excited that some of his letters were incoherent and unfit to send away. While I was here I never stated to any one that I believed the reports in circulation here about him. I did believe the Polly Pike story for a time. Cronkhite told me the circumstances as related to him, and I told him I saw nothing

in it but an act of imprudence. I saw Lydia Pike, and she denied that he had ever insulted her. I saw Freeman several times and asked him what he meant by having Northup write such a letter—that Lydia said there was no truth in it. He said with an oath that Mr. Parshall should not preach if he could prevent it; and also said the Elder had bribed Dr. Norton to say he was sick.

The following statement was then read:

FORT EDWARD, Jan. 12, 1860.

To whom this may in any way concern:—At different times previous to Elder Parshall's departure from Fort Edward, I was consulted by him in relation to a bronchial inflammation which attended him, and for which I occasionally prescribed, but with little success. My advice to him was to leave off preaching, which might afford him a probable chance to recover. This advice was several times repeated during the two years previous to his leaving the Fort.

Yours Respectfully,

Dr. JAMES D. NORTON.

Witness continued: The accused never authorized me to settle any difficulty here. He wrote me not to do so. I never showed Mrs. Tefft a letter from him offering $300 to settle the Polly Pike matter. I never had such a letter. He gave me some instructions. I cannot repeat the language of them. He instructed me not to pay any money to settle any affair. He told me not to do anything without conferring with Cronkhite and Tefft. I got left by the cars at Rochester, and did not get home until Saturday. I had a conversation with L. H. Northup, at Mrs. Vaughn's. I called him in and asked him if he had received any letters from Elder Parshall. He said he had, and I asked to see them. He produced them and I read them. I then told him that the matter of Lydia Pike was nothing, but in the Polly Pike affair, I thought the Elder had been imprudent, and asked him what would satisfy Freeman. I did not offer $500 to settle the Polly Pike business. I talked with Mrs. Freeman; she said the Lydia Pike affair was nothing to some other things which had come out lately; that was of minor importance. She spoke of one affair of the Elder with a married lady; said the married lady had told a brother of hers, and he went to L. H. Northup, and he (Northup) advised her to say nothing about it. Mrs. Freeman said Mr. Parshall had written to L. H. Northup and confessed it. I told her it was not so; L. H. Northup had showed me all the letters, and there was nothing in them of that kind. She said, "I'm afraid Ralph and Northup are playing a double game." Ralph came in just then, and Mrs. Freeman asked him what it meant about a settlement with her father. He said "O, pshaw! I only want Parshall to sign a paper." I went to see Mr. Pike, and asked him if he knew that the Elder had been imprudent with his daughter. I said I understood he had employed Hughes and Northup to prosecute the matter. I told him I did not want him to employ them—that Northup was an enemy of

Mr. Parshall. I asked him what would settle it. I would have given anything to settle it at that time. Mr. Pike said it was not so much him as it was Ralph; he said he had referred the matter to Hughes and Northup, and he would tell me what he would do the next Thursday, but I did not see him again.

Cross-examined: Question.—You speak of not sending some letters; what were the contents of them?

Objected to, (objection overruled.) I knew Mr. Parshall was sick, and thought it not best to send them, because the contents were strange and contradictory. I thought he was not in a proper frame of mind.

Elder Parshall: I thought the letters were all sent, until she told me in the latter part of August.

Witness continued: While I was in Sandy Hill, Mr. Parshall did not send me a check of $300, or any other amount to settle the Polly Pike matter. I did not offer Mr. Pike money to settle it, though I told him I would give any amount to settle it. I was not authorized by Mr. Parshall, while I was here last summer, to offer money to settle any of his indiscretions. I requested Cronkhite to meet me at Mr. Tefft's while I was here. I told him that Mr. Parshall said to me before I left, "Wife, I cannot tell you all—when you get to Sandy Hill, go to brother Cronkhite and he will tell you all; if I should tell you all, you would hate me."

To Cronkhite: I knew nothing about the particulars of Polly Pike's story until she told me herself.

Parshall: Ask her any question you choose, Mr. Cronkhite; you cannot make her tell a lie.

To H. Tefft: I didn't show the letter to Mrs. Tefft I read some parts of it to her. When I asked Mr. Pike what would settle it, he said he wanted to see Parshall himself. I said I believed Polly, and said to Cronkhite, "You knew this before Parshall had left," and said that Parshall had shown great penitence, and I asked Cronkhite what was his duty on the gospel rule.

Parshall never wrote to me, and said that Polly put her tongue in his mouth and leaned against him. I got home in July, on Saturday, but do not remember the day of the month. I left here Tuesday. In my conversation with Polly, she said she thought Parshall had licentious intentions. Polly remained at our house the next day after the night spoken of.

Re-examined: Polly said she came to our house with Mr. Parshall from home and found Libbie alone, and asked her if she was going to the pic-nic, and that she told Libbie she would stay and help her if she would go. Polly said after she had gone to bed, Mr. Parshall came down into the room, then got a light and came in again, and sat down and commenced talking with her. She told him he ought not to be there, and he left, and soon after he came in in the dark, and put up his foot as though he was going to get into bed with her, and that she fought him and pulled his hair and scratched him

so that he bore the marks the next day. This was what Polly told me.

Defendant here read statement of Mrs. Tefft.

SANDY HILL, Jan. 3, 1860.

I hereby certify, that in the month of June last, in company with Mrs. Parshall, I visited Lydia Pike, who unhesitatingly denied ever being insulted by Mr. Parshall, and at the time the insult was charged, Mr. Remington rode with them from Dunham's Basin. I also went with Mrs. Parshall to see Polly Pike, and in conversation, with other things, I asked her why she went home with him, if he had insulted her in the ride from Fort Miller. She said she did not consider what occurred in the ride an insult.

SUSAN C. TEFFT.

Defendant read statement of Dr. Amer.

CERTIFICATE OF DR. AMER.

On Friday, the 3d day of June, 1859, the Rev. R. F. Parshall being sick, requested my attendance. I found him prostrated by augmented biliary secretions, accompanied with great nervous prostration. He remained under my treatment until the 20th of August. There was no time during that period that it would have been proper or safe for the Rev. R. F. Parshall to have left this place. He might have endured the journey, but could not have endured with any degree of safety any strong mental exercise; excitement of that character would be very likely to produce serious inflammation on the brain, which might have resulted in mental alienation. There was an evident predisposition all the time that the Rev. R. F. Parshall was here, in that direction, and therefore my advice to him, to the very last, was, do not go. I did not think he was capable of passing through highly exciting scenes. I shall be happy to know that he is equal to any excitement he may be called to pass through. I can appreciate the motive that prompted him to disregard my advice. He said, "I must go if I die. 'Death before dishonor.' I had better be dead than endure what I am called to endure."

W. AMER, M. D.

P. S. If it should be necessary for you to prove my handwriting, you can call upon Squire Northup, Sandy Hill, or R. M. Little, or my son, Maurice M. Amer, Glenn's Falls.

Defendant read statement of Dr. R. B. Treat.

CERTIFICATES OF DRS. TREAT AND PALMER.

JANESVILLE, Dec. 28, 1859.

To whom it may concern: Mr. Parshall was injured on the 11th of August, 1859, and I visited him every day or two, until the 24th day of the same month and year. He was injured by getting his foot into the horse-power of a threshing machine. Three of his toes were badly crushed and his foot severely bruised. It was nearly two weeks after I visited last before he was able to go about much. There was three weeks' time that he was unable to travel that distance; at least I should not, as his physician, give my consent for him to go under any circumstances. The above is a simple statement of facts as existing at that time, and will be substantiated

by an affidavit from me, if required. Mr. Parshall, until that time, was a stranger to me; but his deportment toward me and others, since then, has given me a favorable opinion of him as a citizen and Christian.

Yours, &c.,
R. B. TREAT, M. D.

JANESVILLE, Wis.

I hereby certify that I saw the Rev. Mr. Parshall in consultation with Dr. Treat for the injuries above-mentioned, and that the nature of the injuries sustained, and the circumstances connected with them, as stated by the doctor, are correct. HENRY PALMER, M. D.

Libbie Bailey called: Polly Pike came to our house towards evening. She was on her way to Sandy Hill, and asked me if I was going to attend the pic-nic. I said I could not, because I had a large ironing, which must be done. She said she would help me if I would go to the pic-nic. We went to the Hill to hear a woman lecture. We then went to Mr. Freeman's, and Polly got some things, and came back as far as Mr. Skinner's, and went in. As we were coming out we met Mrs. Freeman and some others. I did not hear her say anything like "Shall I go or stay?" She had made up her mind to go before that. In regard to what occurred at the house: I started to go down stairs and saw a light in the dining-room, and I came down in a moment. I saw Mr. Parshall go out of Polly's room. I remained there a little while, when I saw him come down again, with a light, and go into her room. I heard her say, "Elder, is that you?" Some little conversation passed between them which I did not hear, when he went back up stairs. I then went up stairs and sat down by my window about an hour, as I did not feel very well. I then came down stairs to get some camphor or peppermint—some camphor, I think. I heard somebody come out of the study and I stepped behind the sitting-room door. Mr. Parshall came down and went into Polly's room, and I heard her say, "Mr. Parshall, what do you want?" He said, "Nothing," and I then stepped to the door where I could look in, and he was sitting on the edge of the bed. She then said, "You ought not to come here." He then said, "Polly, do you think I am mean?" She replied, "No, Elder, I do not; but you ought not to stay here." He said, "You don't think I would do wrong, do you?" and she said, "No; but what would Libbie think if she should hear of it; she would think I was a mean girl." Then Mr. Parshall said, "I would not do wrong for the world." He sat there a few moments, when she said "You must go away." He said, "Kiss me and I will;" and she did so. This was the whole transaction. I never said anything to Parshall about this. I wrote a letter to Miss Pike from Wisconsin. I wrote it because Mrs. Parshall had told me a very different story that Polly had told her. I told no one that I had written the letter until afterward—think not until a week or more afterward. Miss Pike remained at our house the next day after this transaction, until about one o'clock. She made no reference to what had occurred. She

helped me iron and went to the Hill with Mr. Parshall alone. I did not get through ironing and did not go.

Cross-ex.: The bed-room was off the lower sitting room; the pantry is off from the same room. I intended to go with Polly to the Hill and told her so. The last visit to the bed-room was, perhaps, a little after eleven o'clock. I went behind the door when I heard him come down stairs. I stepped to the bed-room door to look in. I came down the back stairs both times.

[A letter was here shown the witness, and she said she wrote the first three pages of it.] I sent it to the person to whom it is directed, to Mr. Cronkhite, or the Baptist church.

To Member Council: Miss Pike did not come back to our house with Elder Parshall from the pic-nic. Parshall had no light the last time he was in the room. There was a window between Elder Parshall and myself, and I could have seen him very easy if he had stood up. Parshall was between me and the window. I could not hear very low conversation. There was no indication of pulling hair or fighting.

Cross-ex.: The window was at the head of the bed. The bed stood in one corner, and the window was just at the fore side and head of the bed. I don't know but Parshall might have seen me if he had looked out, but I guess not. I stood a little on one side. I was not peeking in. I was looking in at the door, and stood out boldly.

Defendant here read a letter from Mrs. Freeman.

SANDY HILL, July 27, 1859.

DEAR SIR:—At the request of Polly, and to satisfy myself, I take this opportunity to write to you, and to regulate your mind on certain points as it regards the affidavit from Polly to the church. Her affidavit does not differ from Lib's statement in the matter; so far as pulling whiskers, or scratching is concerned, it is not in the affidavit, nor she has never stated it. It merely was a flying report. She has told but one story in the affair, and it has never been told to Leonard but once, and that was before you left; had this been the only case, you never would have been troubled; but, Elder, there are things you will see after this trial, that are worse than this, which have caused the church to act, and, at the same time, have compelled her to state the facts, which, I think, she has endeavored to do conscientiously, and without exaggeration. The truth is bad enough; we want nothing but that. So far as kissing is concerned, Mrs. Parshall reported that she made the first advances, which your own confessions in the matter show are not so. So far as I am concerned, or she, I do not wish to injure you, and I am sure she does not; and, as far as my conscience will let me, I defend you still, but not in the wrong. If there is no line of demarcation between the church of Christ and the world, it is time for us to look about and see where we are, if we are not, as a people, verging toward that state of things which caused the cities of the plain to be overthrown, and God's displeasure to rest upon us. Oh, Elder, if I could wipe all these things from the church and you, and make you innocent, and the world satisfied, I

would gladly do it; but it is in vain. Everybody is ready to believe all they hear, and if you are guilty of half, it is enough to condemn you in the eyes of the world. Don't think, because I talk thus, I consider myself pure—NO, far from it. I find the seeds of depravity daily in my own nature, and nothing but the grace of God can save me from giving away to temptation; yet God has promised that His children should not be tempted above that they can bear; and I believe He is faithful and just to forgive those who repent and forsake their sins. Libby's letter to Polly states that Polly did not see me to the church, but that is not so. She saw me, and asked me if she should go, and I told her if she could help Lib to go, but little thought of placing her there for any such purpose. I know you left before I did, but she came to my seat and asked me. I don't think Lib intended to lie about the matter, as she accuses Polly of doing. I think she did not notice it. You say Polly stated things that are uncalled for. She wishes to know if it was called for when you told down to Mr. Brewster's that father urged you to take her, and that you had rather given five dollars than to carry her, as father was not at the house when you left for Fort Miller; if he had been, I presume she would not have gone, for he always thought there was something wrong about you, as well as Ralph. But all they both said never had a particle of influence as long as I thought you innocent; but when I knew you were not, I could not fight any longer. Now, if Lib knew this transaction, why has she not revealed it to Mrs. Parshall? Elder, her late confession of it, I find, has not benefited her nor you; but those who formerly had a good opinion of her, are as ready to believe things that have been reported in regard to her as they are about you. They say she has always been ready to help you out through right or wrong; but this is more than I am willing to say. I do not know her motives nor yours—there is One that does. All I want is truth—that will answer my turn best. I have tried o do in this affair as I would like to be done by, and that is all I ask of you.

S. E. FREEMAN.

You will probably see the different affidavits, which will satisfy Lib in the matter. Polly says that Lib did not urge her to stay, and I would not if I had been her, when I knew you as well she must have known; but as I did not know then, I justify myself in having confidence.

The defendant then read the following affidavits:

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN WILLIAMS.

Washington County, ss.:

JOHN WILLIAMS, of Fort Miller, in said county, being duly sworn, doth depose and say: That he is acquainted with R. F. Parshall, and has been about five years, and is also acquainted with Polly Pike, and has been for some years past. That in the month of September last he had a conversation with said Polly Pike at deponent's house, and conversed with her in relation to her ride with said Parshall from Fort Miller to her father's residence, and the circumstances that took place there, and also what took place at said Parshall's house in August, before. I asked her did he insult you in any way or make any attempts so to do? She answered, no, he did not. I then asked her if he did lay any violent hands upon her, or make any threat or attempt to do wrong; she answered that he did not; she also

stated, that the reason he drove on the bridge was because it rained. That she asked said Parshall to go in at her father's and stay all night, and he said no, that he thought he would drive in the covered bridge and stop, and if it did not continue to rain he would go on, and if it did, he would return and remain all night. Deponent further says that he then said to her, there is no particular harm done or no one killed or hurt. She said, no, there was not much to it, but Ralph Freeman got hold of it, and made a great thing out of it. Deponent also asked her, or said to her, that you have been at Elder Parshall's a good deal, and must be well acquainted with him, and what do you think of him—is he a good man or a bad man? She said, I believe he is a good man. Deponent then said, would you be willing to go and hear him preach? She answered, yes, I would.

JOHN WILLIAMS.

Sworn before me this 14th day of January, 1860.

JAMES L. REYNOLDS,
Justice of the Peace.

AFFIDAVIT OF HANNAH WILLIAMS.

Washington County, ss.:

HANNAH WILLIAMS, being duly sworn, doth depose and say: That she is the wife of John Williams, named in the annexed affidavit, that she has heard the said affidavit read, and that she heard the matters therein stated at the time they were so stated, by said Polly Pike, and that the said statements are correct, and set forth as they were related by said Polly Pike; that, after she had made the statements aforesaid, and after this deponent's husband, John Williams, had left the house, this deponent said to said Polly Pike, "Did Elder Parshall ask or say any mean thing to you, or ask any abusive question to you, as though he wanted anything in particular?" She answered, "No, he did not." HANNAH WILLIAMS.

Sworn before me, this 14th day of January, 1860.

JAMES L. REYNOLDS,
Justice of the Peace.

AFFIDAVIT OF PAMELIA E. ROBINSON.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, SS:

PAMELIA E. ROBINSON, of Fort Edward, in said county, being duly sworn, doth depose and say: That she is acquainted with the Rev. R F. Parshall, and has been for four or five years last past; and acquainted with Polly Pike for a number of years, and lived in the neighborhood with her for a long time. That the next week after said Polly and said Parshall came together from Fort Miller to her father's house (that they had been down there attending church) this deponent had a conversation with said Polly. She said that after they had got down to Fort Miller, it commenced to rain, and she (Polly) thought if the stories that she had heard of Elder Parshall, and that if he was such a man, he would have a good opportunity to say something to her going home, as it was a dark night, and would have a good opportunity to do something, if he was any such man. That he did not say or offer anything to her improper in any way, and that she did not believe the stories that had been told about him, and that she did not believe he was any such man—if he had been he would have said something

improper to her, as he had a good opportunity so to do that night. Deponent further says that she and said Polly are intimate friends, and have been for a number of years, and now are on intimate terms.

PAMELIA E. ROBINSON.

Sworn before me this 16th day of January, 1860.

JAMES L. REYNOLDS, *Justice Peace.*

Seth Durkee called: I am acquainted with Pamelia Robinson. Her character for truth and veracity has never been doubted. She has lived at our house considerably.

The usual hour of adjournment having arrived, a motion was made that the Council sit until a later hour, which was carried.

Libbie Bailey re-called: I remember a conversation between defendant and Kate Scoville. The door-bell rang and I started to go to the door; Elder Parshall came out and opened the door, and Kate Scoville, and, I think her sister Mary, were there. They had come to bring back an umbrella which they had borrowed. As they started away, Parshall called Kate back and said, "Kate, I hear you have been talking about me;" she replied, "It is a darned lie, and I wish folks would mind their own darned business." Her sister said she guessed it was not so, as Katie had said nothing to her about it. Parshall then asked her if he had given her any occasion for her to say anything against him, and she said "no, and I haven't."

James Johnson called—to defendant: I am a member of this church; I remember the protracted meeting we had at Dunham's Basin, two years ago. I remember riding with Parshall one night, from Nelson's to the school-house; Kate Scoville, Ella Parshall, and Mrs. Nelson, I think, were also in the sleigh. There was no chance for you to put your hand in her bosom at that time. Your hands were well tied in driving your horse. You have never written to me. You first spoke to me about it at Harrison's; your brother was present. I helped them out of the sleigh when we got there. Edwin Laraway was there, and I went with you to tie your horse. I had a lamp in my hand.

Cross-examination: I am positive the Scoville girl was along that night. I am acquainted with her—have seen her at several places. It was a red cutter with a top, and the top down.

To Member of Council: It is a few rods from Nelson's to the canal bridge. I think one of the persons was Mrs. Nelson. The three ladies sat on the seat, and the Elder stood up in the front of the cutter with me. It was a hard horse to hold. I am not sure it was Mrs. Nelson: I think it was. It was a bright moonlight night. I rode something less than a mile, and his hands were both employed all the while. I don't know whether Katie was right behind him or me. I rode from the canal bridge to the school-house. Nelson's house is close by the canal, and the bridge three or four rods from his door. I knew it to be Kate Scoville, because I helped her from the cutter. I do not think it would have been possible for him to put his hand in her bosom.

Edwin Laraway called: Am a member of this church—have heard the testimony of Johnson. I remember of seeing this young lady at the meeting spoken of, and heard it was Kate Scoville. I saw Kate here the other day, and did not recognize her as the same girl. I think the horse was hitched when the girls got in. There was an agreement made between Parshall and myself that night. He said the horse was ugly, and I agreed to come and get him the next day, and break him; and went after him accordingly. I had him about ten days. I had been learning a new process to tame ugly horses. I don't think he could have been driven with a loose rein; he would baulk, rear up, &c., if he could not do as he pleased.

Cross-examined: I am a son of Ira Laraway; I don't know what kind of a sleigh he had that night; I might have said yesterday he drove an open sleigh that night—am not positive; I might have been positive yesterday—I think I did say it was an open sleigh with no top to it.

Defendant read an affidavit of Ella Parshall.

AFFIDAVIT OF ELLA PARSHALL.

JANESVILLE, *Dec.* 13*th*, 1859.

I certify that on the evening of the above date, at my house, in Janesville. Wis., I ascertained from Ella Parshall, by a satisfactory examination that convinced me of her truthfulness in the statements then made, the following circumstances, to wit:

When Pa was holding a meeting at Dunham's Basin, he promised me I might go with him. I told the girls at school I was going; Kate Scoville asked me on the school house steps to ask my Pa if she might go, too. I went and asked him; he said, "I don't care." I told her what Pa said. Pa drove down to her house. He asked Charlotte Rozell to go, too, as we passed her house. I sat between Pa and Kate, going and coming. Pa drove an ugly horse he called the Tefft horse, and Dr. Flint's cutter. The horse acted badly; he got scared at a wagon which was tipped over into the canal. Pa said his arms ached, because he had to hold the horse so tight. Kate Scoville said she could drive, and caught hold of the lines. Pa said he would throw her out if she didn't stop. We stopped at Mr. Nelson's at a meeting. Some woman rode up with us to the school-house, and sat between me and Kate. Mr. Johnson rode with Pa in the front part of the cutter from the bridge. After meeting we went out to the fence where the horse was tied, to get into the cutter, because Pa said the horse would not stand at the door. I did not get out at the post office; I asked Pa to let me get out at home. Kate did not ask me to go down to her house. The horse reared up at our gate and did not want to go past; Kate said she could go home afoot. Pa said no, the horse should go past. I did not want to go because the horse acted so badly. Pa said there was no danger. Coming home Pa talked with Kate about being a Christian; he said she and I both would enjoy ourselves better if we were. He said a great deal more that I can't remember. Kate said she was going to a ball that night, but was glad she did not. Kate said the next day, at school, when we were talking about the ride, "Ella, if I had as good a father as you, I would try

and be a Christian." She told how she felt when Bro. Weedon was there, and they had a meeting in the basement. I told Pa at the dinner table what she said.

E. J. GOODSPEED,
Pastor of First Baptist Church, Janesville.
ELLA A. PARSHALL.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, ROCK COUNTY, SS :

On this 15th day of December, 1859, came before me, Ella A. Parshall, and made oath, in due form of law, that the foregoing statement is true.

CHAS. R. GIBBS,
Notary Public, Rock county, Wis.

Defendant now took up the matter of Mrs. Cook.

James Cheesman called : The character of Mrs. Hickok is unquestioned.

Defendant here read affidavit of Rhoda Hickok :

AFFIDAVIT OF RHODA HICKOK.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, SS :

Rhoda Hickok, of the village of Fort Edward, in said county, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that she is acquainted with the Rev. R. F. Parshall, and has been for six years last past. That she is also acquainted with Mrs. Sarah Cook, and has been for some years past, and resides a near neighbor to said Mrs. Cook. That sometime in the year 1857, Mrs. Niles called upon deponent and asked her, this deponent, to go into the house of said Mrs. Cook, that upon such request this deponent went to the house of said Mrs. Cook, and went into the house and first met Mrs. Cook alone, and she asked this deponent to go into the sitting-room of said Mrs. Cook, and that she did so, and there found said Parshall sitting alone ; that a conversation ensued between said Mrs. Cook and said Parshall in the presence of this deponent, which was of some length, and this deponent paid particular attention to said conversation, and heard the whole thereof while this deponent was there. That during said conversation, said Parshall did not use the words, "that a man told me that you (meaning said Mrs. Cook) was the God damnedest meanest whore in Fort Edward," nor words of that import, or of that effect, and that no improper language was on that occasion used by said Parshall to said Cook. And deponent further says, that said Parshall did not, on said occasion, appear to be in anger, or anything of the kind, but appeared mild and very friendly towards said Mrs. Cook, and did not use any unbecoming language on that occasion, in the presence of this deponent. Deponent further says she is a member of the Baptist church at Fort Edward aforesaid, and has been for a good many years last past.

RHODA HICKOK.

Sworn before me, this 18th day of January, 1860.

JAMES L. REYNOLDS, *Justice of the Peace.*

Defendant read another affidavit of Emma Niles:

AFFIDAVIT OF EMMA NILES, NO. 2.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, SS. :

Emma Niles, of Fort Edward, being duly sworn, doth depose and say that on the morning after Elder Parshall had called at her father's hous

as set forth in her affidavit heretofore made by her, this deponent did not go over to the house of Mrs. Sarah Cook, but that Mrs. Cook came into her father's house and said that she had a mind to come into the house the night before when Elder Parshall was there—that she had the fidgets all the time he was in there. Deponent further says, that she did not, as she remembers, make the remark that she, this deponent, would have given fifty dollars if she come in. Deponent further says, that she should not have thought anything about the circumstance of said Parshall's calling, had it not been for remarks made by said Mrs. Cook at that time, and that it was not after dark, only just at dusk when he called, and that he only remained there about five minutes; and that there would not have been anything said about the matter had it not been for Mrs. Cook, as aforesaid

EMMA A. NILES.

Sworn to before me, this 19th of January, 1860.

JAMES L, REYNOLDS, *Justice of the Peace.*

Reads affidavit of Miss Elizabeth Taylor:

AFFIDAVIT OF ELIZABETH TAYLOR.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, ss.:

Elizabeth Taylor being duly sworn, doth depose and say: That she resides at Fort Edward, in said County. That she knows R. F. Parshall, and has for some five or six years, last past, and also Mrs. Sarah Cook. That she is aunt to this deponent. That this deponent's father and mother are both dead. That her father, who was the brother of the said Mrs. Cook, died a year ago last fall, and before his death lived at Fort Edward aforesaid, and near said Mrs. Cook. That said Mrs. Cook is a woman of vindictive disposition, and a meddlesome woman, and seemed to delight in making trouble between neighbors and families. Deponent further says that from her acquaintance with said Mrs. Cook, and for the reputation she has for truth and veracity, she would not believe her under oath.

ELIZABETH TAYLOR.

Sworn to before me, this 19th day of January, 1860.

JAMES L. REYNOLDS, *Justice of the Peace.*

Several witnesses were here called in regard to the character of Miss Taylor for truth and veracity, all testifying that it was good.

W. J. Carswell called: I am acquainted with Sarah Cook. Her character for *talking about her neighbors is good.* She is generally regarded as a meddlesome woman.

Cross-examined: There is a bitter feud between my stepmother and Mrs. Cook. Can't tell how long I have had this stepmother—some two or three weeks.

Henry Tefft called: Defendant wrote me a letter, saying he had taken liberties with a certain young lady, and afterward wrote me stating what he said took place.

Defendant here made a statement in explanation of the matter, saying he was at a certain house, and as the young lady passed through the room he caught hold of her and pulled her down on his knee and said, "I am afraid you are too intimate with a certain young man." She replied, "I am afraid not," and ran away, and that was all there was of it.

A discussion followed as to whether defendant should be allowed to bring farther testimony upon this subject, before the Council, in secret session, and it was ordered that the matter be dropped here.

Counsel for prosecution asks permission to call a witness who is present.

Rev. S. B. Bostwick called: I am an Episcopal clergyman, and well acquainted with Mrs. Cook and have been for ten or twelve years. Her character for truth and veracity is good so far as I know. She was confirmed in 1852—was soon after admitted to the holy communion and has ever since sustained a good reputation in the church.

Cross-examined: I did not think the fact of her being a member of my church rendered it impossible for her to tell an untruth. I reside at Sandy Hill, and she at Fort Edward.

Defendant here confessed that he was guilty of an impropriety in the Polly Pike case. He did not give the particulars in which the impropriety consisted, but his confession in the main comported with the testimony of Miss Bailey.

It was now eleven o'clock at night and several members of the Council stated that they must leave in the morning; their engagements were such that they could not remain longer. The defendant suggested that the case be submitted at this point without argument. He said he had several more witnesses on different points, but rather than have a part of the Council leave, or adjourn and run the risk of getting the Council together again, he would prefer to submit it as it was.

Eastwood objected to this, as the prosecution had a great amount of rebutting evidence which he said would explain and nullify parts of the defence. After considerable discussion on both sides, it was finally agreed to submit the case without argument, after one more witness had been introduced on the part of the church, and

Henry Tefft called: The horse I let Parshall have was a high life horse, but could be driven with a slack rein. I have often driven him so myself. I have heard Niles state in the presence of many persons that his affidavit was true, every word of it, with the exception already mentioned, in regard to the time the offer of money was made.

At half-past eleven o'clock the council adjourned after the usual closing prayer, with the understanding that they should meet in secret session at eight o'clock the next morning, and when they had agreed upon their verdict, the bell would be rung, and the doors thrown open, and their finding publicly given.

FRIDAY, January 20th, 1860.

There was great excitement and anxiety all the forenoon, and many rumors were afloat in regard to the doings of the council. At half-past three o'clock, P. M., the bell rung, and the capacious church was filled almost instantaneously with an eager multitude. As soon as

order was restored, the Moderator read the following, as the finding of the council:

Resolved, That we consider the first charge in the complaint of the Baptist Church against R. F. Parshall sustained:—That is to say, we do not find R. F. Parshall guilty of adultery or fornication. But we do find him guilty of acts indicating licentious designs, as charged by specifications number one, first clause—fifth and sixth—seventh and eighth.

Resolved, That under the charges of imprudence and bad example, we find him guilty of the act charged in specification No. 20.

Resolved, In consideration of testimony adduced before this council in reference to a certain anonymous letter—that this council do not deem R. F. Parshall's authorship of the same sustained by sufficient positive proof.

Resolved, That the decision of the council held in this place on the 16th of August last deposing R. F. Parshall from the ministry, and advising his exclusion from the church, be re-affirmed.

The specifications referred to in the first resolution of the council, are as follows:

Specification 1.—In making several attempts upon the person of Nancy J. Osborn, in the winter of 1855, with the evident design to have sexual intercourse with her, she being a member of his church.

Spec. 5.—In making several attempts upon the person of Caroline T. Baker, indicating a licentious intention, in the year 1858.

Spec. 6.—In going into the bedroom of Caroline T. Baker after she had gone to bed in bis house, with the intention of having sexual intercourse with her in 1858.

Spec. 7.—In having frequently taken personal liberties with Polly Pike, indicating licentious intentions.

Spec. 8.—In having gone into the bedroom of Polly Pike, after she had gone to bed in his house, on three several occasions, in the same night, with a design, evidently, of having sexual intercourse with her, in August or September, in the year 1858.

The specification referred to in the second resolution is as follows:

Specification 20.—"In falsely denying to L. W. Cronkhite that he had acted improperly with any other female except Polly Pike."

PROTEST.

JANUARY, 1860.

We, the undersigned, members of the ecclesiastical council, recently held at Sandy Hill, for the trial of R. F. Parshall, on a complaint brought before said council, by the first Baptist Church of Sandy Hill, having examined the specifications referred to in the decision of said council, hereby certify that those specifications were not read before said council, as far as our memory serves us, either in secret session, or at any other time, and that their contents and phraseology were unknown to us. We certify that those specifications are calculated to make an impression which is false, and which is unjust to the accused, and at variance with the true intent and design of the decision of the said council. We, therefore, solemnly protest

against any publicity being given to the decision of the said council, until an opportunity has been given for said decision to be reviewed by said council, or by some other council, regularly called.

Rev. William Brown,
" A. Bronson,
" J. Earle,
" J. H. Banker,
" R. A. Paterson,
" Caleb Brayton,

Rev. D. W. Williams,
" L. F. Baker,
" John Newton,
" William Ellis,
" H. C. Petteys,
" Seth P. Durkee.

" *To the Clerk of the Baptist Church in Sandy-Hill;*

" *Whereas*, In the result of Council, rendered at Sandy-Hill, Jan. 20th, 1860, in the case of the Baptist Church and R. F. Parshall, an oversight occurred in the references made, in said result, to the bill of charges and specifications;—and, whereas, it is deemed proper that the oversight touching said references should be corrected;—

" This is to state that in the result no references should have been made to specification *Fifth*. The references to specification *First*, and first clause, and Seventh are correct with this qualification. But *one* act of impropriety instead of *several* as charged was regarded as proven under each.

"The undersigned, members of the Council, would further state that the foregoing corrections in no way affect their decision upon the merits of the case touching the guilt or innocence of R. F. Parshall.—But the result with the aforesaid references corrected, fully expresses the opinion of the Council in the premises..

J. O. MASON, *Moderator.*

JAMES CHEESMAN, *Clerk.*

H. E. PETTEYS,	D. W. WILLIAMS.
DANIEL NEWMAN,	THOMAS POTTER,
J. EARL,	J. NEWTON,
L. F. BAKER,	JAS. H. PRATT,
L. R. MASON,	J. H. BARKER,
CALEB BRAYTON,	WILLIAM ELLIS.

" I certify that the enclosed corrections with respect to the specifications are correct. I certify also that the decision with the said corrections is as it passed the Council.

WILLLIAM BROWN."

To the Clerk of the Baptist Church in Sandy-Hill.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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